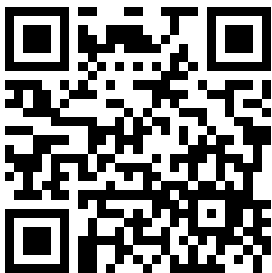
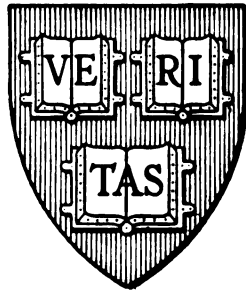

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ACCOUNTS AND PAPERS:

TWENTY-ONE VOLUMES.

—(7.)—

COLONIES.

WEST INDIES AND MAURITIUS (IMMIGRATION);
REPORTS TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Session 2,
31 May — 13 August 1859.

VOL. ²¹XXI.

1859—Sess. 2.

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1859—Sess. 2.

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“And, of all COLONIAL ACTS or ORDINANCES, regulating the Condition of IMPORTED LABOURERS, at present in force, and not already laid before Parliament.”

(*Mr. Chichester Fortescue.*)

PART II.

ST. LUCIA.—GRENADA.—TOBAGO.—ST. VINCENT.
ST. KITTS.—MAURITIUS.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
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DESPATCHES FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Right Honourable H. LABOUCHERE, M. P. ; The Right Honourable Lord STANLEY, M. P. ; and
The Right Honourable Sir E. B. LYTTON, Bart., M. P.

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PART II.

COPIES or EXTRACTS of any CORRESPONDENCE between the Colonial Office and the Governors of the West Indian Colonies and the *Mauritius*, with respect to the Condition of the LABOURING POPULATION of such Colonies, both Native and Immigrant, and the Supply of Labour: and, of all COLONIAL ACTS or ORDINANCES, regulating the Condition of IMPORTED LABOURERS, at present in force.

ST. LUCIA.

ST. LUCIA.

Despatches from the Governor.

— No. 1. —

(No. 45.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Hincks to the Right Honourable
H. Labouchere, M. P.

Windward Islands, Barbados, 23 September 1857.

(Received, 19 October 1857.)

(Answered, No. 80, 7 November 1857, page 25.)

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the copy of a Despatch from Mr. Breen, administering the Government of St. Lucia, enclosing an extract from the minutes of the proceedings of a meeting of the Legislative Council of that Colony, held on the 8th instant, and I venture to hope that the resolutions adopted on that occasion will be considered satisfactory.

I have, &c.

(signed) *F. Hincks*.

No. 1.

Governor Hincks
to the Right Hon.
H. Labouchere,
M. P.

23 Sept. 1857.

No. 86.
10 Sept. 1857.
Enclosure.

Enclosure in No. 1.

Encl. in No. 1.

(No. 86.)

Sir,

St. Lucia, 10 September 1857.

YOUR Excellency's Despatch of the 24th July, No. 123, Executive, covering copies of Despatches from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and of reports from the Emigration Commissioners on various points connected with coolie immigration, having been communicated to the Legislative Council at its meeting of the 8th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Excellency an extract of the proceedings of the Board, containing three resolutions which were adopted on that occasion.

Sub Enclosure.

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2. Your

ST. LUCIA.

2. Your Excellency will perceive that these resolutions embody the recommendations of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State, as communicated in his Despatch to the Emigration Commissioners, of the 25th May last, respecting the remuneration of surgeons of coolie ships, the gratuity to the ships' officers, and the bonus and advance to be made to the coolies on their embarkation.

His Excellency Francis Hincks, Esq.,
Governor in Chief.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. H. Breen*,
Administering the Government.

Sub-Enclosure in No. 1.

EXTRACT from the Minutes of the Proceedings of a Meeting of the Legislative Council,
held on the 8th September 1857.

Present,—His Excellency Henry Hegart Breen, Esq., Administrator of the Government.—Honourables Louis Lacaze, Attorney General; R. G. McHugh, Her Majesty's Treasurer; Thomas Parker, Controller and Auditor of Accounts; Constant Bourgeois, John Pollock, James Macfarlane, Alphonse Cools, Charles de Brettes, and Raymond Drouilhet.

THE Honourable Mr. De Brettes then moved the following resolutions:—

"1. That surgeons of coolie ships shall be remunerated at the rate of ten shillings a head for the first voyage on all coolies landed alive; and if the conduct of the surgeon be completely satisfactory, and he be recommended for such increase, that the payment shall be raised to eleven shillings for the next voyage, and on further recommendation and favourable report to twelve shillings as a maximum for every subsequent voyage.

"2. That a gratuity of one dollar a head on the emigrants embarked shall be divided among the ships' officers, subject to a deduction of six dollars on each person, except infants under one year, dying on board or incapable of work when landed.

"3. That the Emigration Agents in India shall be authorised to give, if necessary, a bonus to each adult coolie of five rupees, by way of free gift, and an advance not exceeding ten rupees to be repaid out of his wages."

The motion was seconded by the Honourable Mr. Pollock, and carried unanimously.

(signed) *Henry H Breen*,
Colonial Secretary.

(No. 57.)

— No. 2. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Hincks* to the Right Honourable
H. Labouchere, M.P.

Windward Islands, Barbados, 9 November 1857.

(Received, 3 December 1857.)

Sir,

(Answered, No. 8, 27 April 1858, page 26.)

ON the receipt of your Despatch of 12th June last (St. Lucia, No. 50),* I entered into correspondence with the Administrator of the Government of St. Lucia on the subject of the rate of wages current in that Colony, and I have now the honour to transmit to you copies of the Despatches which have been exchanged between us, which I shall accompany with such observations as will, I trust, put you in complete possession of my own views on this important question.

2. The policy of encouraging the emigration of Indians to the British West India Colonies owes its origin to an alleged deficiency of creole labour, and the inability of the planters to obtain the supply necessary for the cultivation of their estates. The rate of wages it was said, had consequently become so high that the sugar cane could not be cultivated at a profit.

3. I am not aware that Her Majesty's Government has avowedly adopted the policy of endeavouring to reduce the value of sugar to the consumer by increasing the production of that commodity, through the instrumentality of coolie labourers.

Such

No. 2.
Governor *Hincks*
to the Right Hon.
H. Labouchere,
M.P.
9 Nov. 1857.

* *Vide* Papers presented Aug. 1857, page 396.

9 Enclosures.

Such a policy appear to me to be at direct variance with that of protecting existing proprietors from the injury caused by the withdrawal of the labourers from their estates.

ST. LUCIA.

4. When the West Indian proprietors last brought their grievances before Parliament, it was alleged on their behalf, that they were unable to produce sugar by free labour to compete with that grown by slaves in Cuba; and it was made a subject of complaint, that they were exposed to the competition of foreign sugar in the home market.

5. All intelligent and well-informed planters would now admit that a grave mistake was committed, in ascribing to the cheapness of slave labour the superior productiveness of Cuba. There can be no doubt whatever that free labour is infinitely cheaper than slave, and that Cuba owes its prosperity to the great productiveness of a rich virgin soil, on which the sugar cane can be ratooned for 50 years or upwards, with a very moderate application of labour.

6. In Barbados, the cane must be planted every year, on at least two-thirds of the estates, and on those where ratooning is practicable, it can only be followed for two, and at most three years. Barbados perhaps labours under greater disadvantage in this respect than any of the West India Colonies, but the islands generally are much less favourably situated than British Guiana and Trinidad, the soils of which are probably as rich as that of Cuba.

7. It may be the policy of Her Majesty's Government, to endeavour to reduce the price of sugar, by encouraging the cultivation of these rich virgin soils; but it must, I think, be obvious, that the result in a commercial point of view will be precisely the same to the proprietors of the old estates as the increased productiveness of Cuba by slave labour. I venture most respectfully to express my doubts as to the propriety or expediency of the Government encouraging the establishment of new estates to compete with the old proprietors. I think that coolie immigration should have been strictly limited to the avowed object of its promoters: the supplying with labourers the estates which had been wholly or partially deserted.

8. I cannot better describe the effect of the present system, than by quoting a few extracts from a speech recently delivered in the Legislative Council of Trinidad, on the subject of granting an aid to railroads, by the Attorney General of that Colony. "Mr. Burnley, in his speeches in 1847, had stated that the introduction of railways would have the effect of drawing the labouring population from the old settlements into new and fertile lands, and he feared the result of bringing virgin lands into competition with the old land of the Colony." * * * "Only the other day unofficial members had proposed and voted the means to pay the extraordinary expenditure of bringing in a much greater amount of immigration; and although it was admitted on all hands, that the present supply of labour was insufficient for the demand of the Colony, yet it must be borne in mind, that the breadth of cultivation had been considerably increased since 1847, and that we were still bringing new lands into cultivation." * * * "But was it to be thought that the cultivation of this noble Colony was to be limited to the cultivation of 150 or 160 estates? Had they not sent home to the Colonial Office the assertion, —no idle boast,—that with a sufficient supply of labour, this island was able to produce sufficient for the whole consumption of Great Britain?"

9. I should be sorry indeed to object to increased cultivation in other Colonies, provided it be not stimulated by protective measures, and such I hold to be all systems of immigration, which are not carried on strictly at the expense of the parties requiring the labour.

10. If any considerable increase in the production of sugar should be caused by the influx of still larger bodies of Indian labourers, and especially if these Colonies should be made receptacles for Indian convicts, I apprehend that great discontent will be felt by the old proprietors generally, but especially by those in Barbados. The planters in this island hitherto have met, and have overcome all the difficulties with which they have had to contend. Their science, economy, industry and skill, not the cheapness of their labour, have enabled them to compete successfully with all other producers, foreign or colonial; and I feel assured that if their properties should be depreciated in value, owing to the Government

ST. LUCIA. — having systematically encouraged and stimulated the increased production of sugar, they will feel deeply aggrieved.

11. I am not aware of so direct an interference on the part of Government to force the production of any other article of commerce, and the policy is so much at variance with that generally avowed of late years, that it seems to me impossible, that when coolie immigration was first sanctioned, it could have been foreseen that its effect would be, not merely to supply labour to those estates where it was deficient, but to create such an increased demand for it, that if by any casualty it should be stopped for a time, the planters would suffer infinitely more than they have ever yet done.

12. Although the foregoing remarks are of a general character, and have been made with a view of drawing your attention to the effect which will be produced upon the value of old properties by stimulating the cultivation of rich virgin soil by compulsory labour, they have a direct bearing upon the question immediately under consideration, viz., the rate of wages in Guiana and Trinidad, as compared with that in St. Lucia, and in other Colonies similarly situated.

13. The rate of wages in British Guiana ranges at 1 s. 4 d., 1 s. 8 d. and 2 s. per day for men, and 1 s. 4 d. for women. Now, I do not think it at all probable that such rates will be given permanently in any of the Colonies less favourably circumstanced as regards richness, and therefore increased productiveness of soil.

14. The rate of wages on which the coolie may rely in St. Lucia is 1 s. per day, with a house and at least half an acre of land, and medical attendance. These wages are actually higher than the current wages, and I cannot withhold the expression of my belief, which the correspondence accompanying this Despatch has strengthened, that in St. Lucia, immigration is resorted to, in order to keep down the wages of the labourers, and not from an actual deficiency of labour.

15. It is to be observed, that prior to 1848 the rate of wages in St. Lucia was as high as 1 s. 4 d. Owing to a serious, but as it now appears, temporary depreciation in the value of sugar, it was reduced to 10 d., but notwithstanding the late high prices for all West India staples, the wages of the labourers have not been raised.

16. My own belief is, that no rate of wages would be sufficient to retain labourers on the sugar estates so long as the planters maintain their present policy. I have no hesitation in affirming that the main cause of the abandonment of those estates has been the tenure on which alone the labourers could obtain land, and which was a tenancy at will, the labourer being liable to ejectment at a few days' notice. Sound policy would dictate that this tenure should be converted into one in perpetuity, and that the questions of rent and wages should be completely separated, as they have been in Barbados. It is true that the tenancy at will obtains here universally, but its effect has been most prejudicial to the civilisation of the labourers, and it has not produced the same result as in St. Lucia, because the labourers have not equal facilities for procuring land. But there can be no doubt that the most industrious labourers in Barbados have been stimulated to purchase small allotments for themselves owing to the nature of the tenure.

17. Another cause which operates against the planters in St. Lucia, is the practice of paying wages monthly instead of weekly. The usual apology made on behalf of the planters, is the insufficiency of their capital, but I venture to doubt whether persons who are unable to pay their present labourers weekly are in a position to demand that their numbers should be increased. It is said that frequent losses and disappointments have been experienced by the labourers owing to this very objectionable system.

18. I have stated in my correspondence with Mr. Breen the grounds on which I believe that there is already an adequate supply of labourers in St. Lucia for the cultivation of the existing estates. It would, in my opinion, be most inexpedient to encourage the formation of new estates in that island. If it be the settled policy of Her Majesty's Government to stimulate the production of sugar by means of imported labour, I would respectfully suggest that the field for such operations

operations should be limited. The system must be viewed by all as an experiment, and it is considered by many, as well as by me, as a most dangerous one. The resident proprietors in St. Lucia would, I imagine, be themselves unwilling to have new lands brought into cultivation, and I doubt the possibility of doing so with profit.

ST. LUCIA.

19. If the cultivation of the present estates is to be extended, increased capital will be required, and it is questionable whether it would be forthcoming. It is an admitted fact, that owing to the insolvency of the largest proprietor in the island some years ago, a considerable number of labourers were thrown out of employment.

20. I have, in my Despatch of the 22d August, Barbados, No. 42,* explained at some length the grounds of my objection to coolie immigration. I have, in the correspondence accompanying this Despatch, compared the cost of cultivation in Barbados with that in St. Lucia, and I have shown that the planter in the latter Colony has many advantages, and that he does not in reality pay a high price for labour. I have no apprehension that sugar cultivation will be abandoned on the St. Lucia estates so long as remunerative prices can be obtained.

* Page 31.

21. If you should be of opinion that wages should be paid weekly, that a more liberal rate should be given, that the questions of rent and wages should be separated, and that encouragement should be given to those who may agree to grant perpetual leases of small allotments at fair rents, it strikes me that the present is a most favourable opportunity of promoting such reforms. The anxiety to obtain labourers is so great, owing to the high price of sugar, that the planters would probably be disposed to yield to reasonable terms.

22. I do not think that the same rate of wages can be expected in St. Lucia or Grenada as in Guiana and Trinidad, and there is no doubt much weight in the argument that the cost of living is greater in the latter Colonies. I am, however, bound to express my conviction that the planters can well afford to pay 1s. 3d. per day, and that while the current wages are below that rate, they cannot reasonably expect to obtain foreign labourers.

23. Any other reforms might be accomplished by a strong expression of opinion from you, enforced by giving a preference in the allotment of labourers to those who should conform to the prescribed regulations.

24. I venture to hope that if I have failed to convince you of the correctness of my opinions on this question, I have supplied information which will enable you to judge as to the expediency of directing immigration to St. Lucia, the rate of wages offered being 1s. per day for male adults.

I have, &c.
(signed) *F. Hincks.*

Enclosure 1, in No. 2.

Encl. 1, in No. 2.

(No. 122.)

Sir,

Windward Islands, Barbados, 7 July 1857.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the copy of a Despatch from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, forwarding a report from the Emigration Commissioners, accompanying a letter from Mr. Caird, Emigration Agent at Calcutta, on the subject of the treatment of coolie immigrants.

His Honor H. H. Breen, Esq.,
St. Lucia.

I have, &c.
(signed) *F. Hincks.*

Enclosure 2, in No. 2.

Encl. 2, in No. 2.

(No. 66.)

Sir,

St. Lucia, 3 August 1857.

REFERRING to your Excellency's Despatch, No. 122, Executive, of the 7th July, covering copy of a Despatch from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, calling my attention to the remarks of the Emigration Commissioners as to the rate of wages obtainable

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ST. LUCIA.

obtainable in St. Lucia, and the price of necessities in the case of agricultural labourers, I have the honour to state that the current rate of wages varies according to the localities, the different periods of the year, the exigencies of the planters, and the description of work performed. It is never less than 10 *d.* a day in any part of the island, and it is often 1 *s.* 3 *d.*, sometimes 1 *s.* 5 *d.* This is particularly the case during crop time, and for night-work performed in the manufactories.

2. The price of necessities is less subject to fluctuation. Upon this point the annexed Table may be relied on as correct; I should add, however, that in the circumstances of St. Lucia, owing to the extensive provision grounds attached to the different estates, and to the waste lands, whether belonging to the Crown or to vacant successions, which an industrious labourer may easily convert into provision grounds; the question as to the price of necessities, especially as regards the articles of food, presents but little difficulty. Another advantage in this respect is derived from the great abundance of fish. On this question I have received from the stipendiary magistrate of the 1st district a communication containing some interesting particulars, extract of which is herein enclosed.

3. While on this subject, I may advert to the fact, that by this mail I have the satisfaction of transmitting to your Excellency copy of the Supplementary Immigration Ordinance, passed on the 14th July last, by which the objections to the former Ordinance have been removed. Coupling this circumstance with the gratifying intelligence conveyed in your Excellency's Despatch, No. 126, of the 24th July, and with the great advantages held out by St. Lucia to industrious immigrants, I venture to express the hope that the promised Indian labourers will soon be sent to this island. That they are much needed and anxiously expected, your Excellency had an opportunity of ascertaining during your recent visit to this island.

His Excellency Francis Hincks, Esq.,
Governor in Chief.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. H. Breen*,
Administering the Government.

PRICES OF NECESSARIES.

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>		<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Wheat flour, per pot	-	-	-	11	
Corn flour	-	-	-	7	
Cassava farine, per pot	-	-	-	5	
Fresh beef, per lb.	-	-	-	8	
Salt beef	-	-	-	11	
Salt pork	-	-	-	11	
Fresh pork	-	-	-	8	
Mutton	-	-	-	8	
Salt fish	-	-	-	3	
Fresh fish	-	-	-	4	
Lard	-	-	-	1	4
Butter	-	-	-	1	10
Rice, per pot	-	-	-	1	3
Olive oil, per bottle	-	-	-	1	6
Candles, per lb.	-	-	-	1	-
Soap	-	-	-	-	6
Milk, per pint	-	-	-	-	1½
Coffee, per lb.	-	-	-	-	1
Sugar	-	-	-	-	6
Salt, per quart	-	-	-	-	4½
Tobacco, per lb.	-	-	-	-	1
Rum, per bottle (French)	-	-	-	-	10
O-naburghs, per yard	-	-	-	-	5
Cotton	-	-	-	-	4½
Linen	-	-	-	-	10
Checks	-	-	-	-	6
Prints	-	-	-	-	8
Shirts	-	-	-	-	1
Trousers	-	-	-	-	1
Hats	-	-	-	-	1
Shoes, per pair	-	-	-	-	6

(Certified correct.)

(signed) *Henry H. Breen*, Colonial Secretary.

EXTRACT from a Letter from Mr. Stipendiary Magistrate *Jennings*, dated 29 July 1857.

HAVING given the information immediately called for, I trust your Excellency will not consider the following observations out of place, and which I forward, as it appears to be your Excellency's desire to ascertain the means a coolie, when introduced into the Colony, would have at his disposal for benefiting himself.

The money wages of the labourers in St. Lucia must be considered as only a part payment for their work, for there is not an estate in this district whereon there are not large quantities of uncultivated land, which the labourers working on the estate are permitted to cultivate at pleasure; they are also permitted to keep stock; and many of them, by the means of their gardens, horses, cows, and pigs, more than double the amount of their money wages.

A proof of the great ease with which a labourer in St. Lucia may not only live well, but amass considerable sums of money, is shown by the present condition of numbers of the African immigrants imported into the island in 1849-50. Many of these people are now proprietors of from three to ten acres of fine rich soil, where they keep horses, cows, pigs, &c.,

&c., in several instances to the number of 12 to 14 heads. Many of the immigrants, to my certain knowledge, were owners of a horse, or one or two cows, before they have been a year relieved from their contracts.

Fish is so abundant, and so easily caught, that a labourer must be more than lazy if he cannot, on almost any evening after he has finished his work, when employed in the field, and should he not go to his garden, contrive to catch enough for the use of himself and family. Crabs, of which the labourers make free use, are obtainable by any one who chooses to look for them.

Game is also very easily obtained, and affords a source of income to many an industrious man.

In consequence of the foregoing facilities, the agricultural labourer spends very little for his food, except salt fish and salt pork (with the latter he seasons his pot of vegetables), his garden providing him with esculents, and his gun or rod with flesh, for which, however, he cares little, except on Sundays, when he generally indulges himself with a small portion of butcher's meat.

(True extract.)

(signed) *H. H. Breen,*
Colonial Secretary.

Enclosure 3, in No. 2.

Encl. 3, in No. 2.

(No. 135.)

Windward Islands, Barbados,
19 August 1857.

Sir,
Your Despatch of the 3d instant, No. 66, Executive, with the accompanying extract from a letter of Mr. Stipendiary Magistrate Jennings, has engaged my best attention.

2. I am sorry, though I cannot say that I am surprised, to learn that the vicious system which has been the main cause of the diversion of creole labour from the sugar estates in all the Colonies, except Barbados, prevails in St. Lucia, and under which the labourers have been permitted to occupy, without rent, Crown lands, or those belonging to vacant successions, which ought to be protected by the Government or the estates of the planters.

3. Had the planters, at the period of emancipation, adopted the rule of charging rent for all lands occupied, and had the Government insisted on the payment of a heavy weekly or monthly tax from all those occupying Crown or other vacant lands, the negroes would have had to labour as they do in Barbados.

4. Again, had the proprietors, while charging a fair rent for the occupation of their land, unconnected altogether with the question of wages, encouraged the labourers to cultivate the sugar-cane, by affording them facilities for manufacturing their small crops, as they do in Barbados, taking only one-fourth of the produce, I am persuaded that with even moderate wages there would have been in St. Lucia a superabundance of labourers.

5. My belief is, that the reason why the Barbados labourers refuse to emigrate is, that, even with low wages, they are better off than the labourers in the other Colonies, owing to the highly judicious treatment which they have received from the planters.

6. Whether it be possible to recover for the sugar estates the labour which has been diverted from them, owing to a most erroneous policy, is a question which I have no means of determining. I must say, however, that the impressions which I have received during my visit to St. Lucia, and which I am persuaded are correct, are, that in the principal sugar district, the Soufriere Quarter, the resident proprietors of unencumbered estates are in prosperous circumstances, and have had no just cause of complaint, either on the score of want of labour, or on other grounds.

7. I was also led to think that St. Lucia had suffered much from the rashness and over-speculation of individuals, and that estates had been thrown out of cultivation, not from want of labour, but from want of capital to employ labour, owing to their having been mortgaged to so great an extent that no further loans could be obtained on them.

8. I believe now that there is an ample supply of labour in St. Lucia, which ought to be made available; but, owing to the situation of the estates which are near the coast all round the island, the labourers on the abandoned estates are not likely to leave them to go upon others without some inducement greater than has yet been offered, and I am by no means prepared to affirm that any inducement which it would be in the power of the planters to offer would be sufficient.

9. I have not now to consider the expediency of introducing coolie labourers. Before I assumed the government of these Colonies, the Ordinance providing for immigration had been sanctioned by Her Majesty's Government, and my duty was simply to carry it out, and I have studiously refrained hitherto from expressing any opinions officially on the subject, though it has been constantly under my consideration.

ST. LUCIA.

10. The question which has arisen is a practical one of great importance. Can the St. Lucia planters expect coolie labourers unless they are prepared to give the same wages as those which prevail in British Guiana? I am not clear, from your Despatch, as to the rate of wages which I should be authorised to inform the Secretary of State is current in St. Lucia.

11. I was repeatedly informed, when there a few weeks ago, that it was 10 *d.* per day. The wages for nightwork, or in the crop time, are entirely beside the present question. What do the planters ordinarily pay their labourers, by the day or by the task? Has any tariff been agreed upon for taskwork, and, if so, has it been published? You are aware that the system of taskwork prevails generally in the Colonies, and that the coolies will expect to work under it.

12. Are there in St. Lucia, as in Barbados, classes of labourers to whom different wages are given? I fear that without more precise explanation as to rates, where there is so wide a range as from 10 *d.* to 17 *d.*, the Secretary of State would be rather embarrassed than otherwise by your Despatch.

13. You must recollect that if the coolies should be informed that wages are 1 *s.* 5 *d.* a day they will expect to receive that amount and not 10 *d.* It would therefore, I think, be advisable for you to get the leading applicants for coolie labourers to state the rate of wages they are prepared to give, and as I am anxious to have some idea of the entire number required, I have prepared a form of return, which I hope you will be able to get filled up, and several copies of which I have the honour to transmit. I may observe, that on one occasion the planters in Trinidad refused to receive coolies after they had been landed, and thus caused a good deal of embarrassment.

14. I transmit herewith the copy of a Despatch which I have recently addressed to Lieutenant Governor Kortright on the labour question. You will understand this as a mere expression of my individual opinions on this very important question. They have not been communicated to the Secretary of State, because until now no practical question has arisen to call for their communication.

15. I do not think that in St. Lucia, any more than in Grenada, sufficient inducements have been offered to the creole population to labour, while facilities of all kinds have been afforded to them to cultivate lands for themselves.

16. I shall be very glad indeed to receive from you any observations with reference to my views that may occur to you, and I trust that you will have no hesitation in conveying them with the most perfect freedom. The labour question in these Colonies has certainly not yet been satisfactorily solved, and opinions may be advantageously canvassed, and the facts on which they are based scrupulously examined.

17. While I rely with great confidence on the correctness of the opinions which I have formed, mainly because they are in accordance with well established economical principles, I invite the closest scrutiny of my theory, and the most rigid examination of all facts and figures.

His Honor the Administrator,
St. Lucia.

I have, &c.
(signed) *F. Hincks.*

Encl. 4, in No. 2.

Enclosure 4, in No. 2.

(No. 33.)

Sir,

St. Lucia, 3 September 1857.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's Despatch of the 19th August, No. 135, Executive, on the labour question, together with the copy of a Despatch addressed by your Excellency on the same important subject to Lieutenant Governor Kortright.

2. Your Excellency kindly invites me to canvass with freedom the opinions which you have expressed in those documents, and I shall avail myself of this permission to offer such observations as may occur to me on this, of all questions, the most vital to the West Indies.

3. On the advantages and cheapness of free labour, as compared with slave labour, there can be but one opinion in so far as these Colonies are concerned. From my acquaintance with the different estates in this island, extending over a period of 28 years, and my intimate knowledge of the position and circumstances of their owners, derived from the Mortgage Office, which has been for nearly the same space of time under my direction, I can affirm that under the free-labour system many of the planters have not only paid off the debts contracted during slavery, but have become enriched. Where this is not the case the result is to be ascribed either to want of capital, want of labour, want of proper management, the drought which prevails in certain districts, absenteeism, or rash speculation.

4. Of all descriptions of free labour the one which is best suited to these Colonies is that of their native population. Where that fails, the deficiency should, if practicable, be supplied by African immigration. The labourers of that class, imported some years ago into St. Lucia,

Lucia, have proved a blessing alike to themselves and to their employers. In many instances they have realised little fortunes; and where they have remained upon the estates they have been the means of keeping up the little cultivation that is carried on there. No wonder, then, that our planters of French origin should look with feelings of jealousy, and even of despair, upon the successful efforts made by their neighbours of Martinique to import Africans into that flourishing Colony.

5. That there is a great deficiency of creole labour in St. Lucia is a well-known fact. The only question is, how is that deficiency to be supplied? The remedy suggested by your Excellency is to attract the creole labourers to the estates by offering them increased wages, say 1 s. 6 d. per day. In order to judge how far this scheme is applicable to the circumstances of St. Lucia, and how far it is likely to produce the desired result, we must examine more closely the actual state of things. No doubt, if the labourers, as in the case of a "strike" in our manufacturing districts at home, had suddenly withdrawn from the estates, and refused to work, the offer of an increase of wages might be resorted to with success; but such is not the case. The St. Lucia labourers have been retiring, one by one, from the estates for the last 20 years; not in consequence of the low rate of wages, but rather because those wages, coupled with the advantages obtainable in other respects, enable them to save money, and purchase small portions of land, which they cultivate on their own account.

6. In order to bring about this state of affairs, three things are requisite, and they are found in the case of St. Lucia, namely, extensive tracts of land out of cultivation, owners disposed to sell, and labourers with money in hand, ready to purchase. When this system commenced, it is likely that the planters foresaw to what it would lead in the long-run; but present interest made them overlook remote or contingent evils; and, moreover, it would have required a combination of the whole body of planters to check that which each, separately, had no objection to encourage.

7. The purchase of small portions of land has now proceeded to an incalculable extent. This is shown in some measure by the return furnished by me to Mr. Drysdale in May 1856, and published with his report on the Blue Book for 1856; and it is further illustrated by the extraordinary number of barrels of sugar which some of the merchants of Castries have purchased this year from the small cultivators. These, too, it must be remembered, are altogether apart from that class of small proprietors who confine their operations to the raising of provisions, stock, &c.

8. Another fact which is, I think, demonstrated by these data is, that the St. Lucia labourer has no cause to complain of ill-usage from the planters. The Barbados planters are known to be a very humane and liberal body of men; but, in spite of our drawbacks and deficiencies in other respects, I have no hesitation in affirming that in no island in the West Indies have the planters shown themselves more liberal to their labourers than in St. Lucia. This may be inferred from the circumstance, above stated, of so many of the labourers saving money from their wages to purchase small estates; and it is illustrated in another sense by the small number of complaints brought by the labourers against their employers. Had Barbados possessed the same abundance of land as St. Lucia, no judicious treatment of her labourers would have prevented them from purchasing their one or two acres, where there were acres to purchase. The Barbadians may thank the density of their population for the prosperity of their Colony. To the sparse and scattered character of hers, St. Lucia will be ever indebted for the low rank which she holds among these islands.

9. Such being the state of things in this Colony, the offer of an increase of wages would not be productive of any corresponding benefit to the planter; to be attended even with a show of advantage, it should come from the planters as a body, and not from any of them in particular. If made by a certain number only, it might have the effect of benefiting them; but, instead of bringing back the negroes who have retired from the estates, it would draw them from one estate to the other, to the prejudice of those who did not concur.

10. The negroes, if I may judge from the sample with which I am best acquainted (those of St. Lucia), are fond of their ease and their independence.

Within the last twenty years some thousands of them have got married in this island.

They begin to have a notion of bringing up a family, and all these ideas find their development and indulgence much more adequately upon their "own estate" than in the position of dependents upon the estate of another.

To me this feeling seems very natural; it is the inevitable consequence of their emancipation from slavery; and whatever becomes of the labour question, I confess I should regret to see any system devised which should have a tendency to stifle that feeling in the negro's breast. Let us have freedom in industry, as well as in commerce, and matters will find their own level.

11. The offer of an increase of wages to the labourers of St. Lucia would, therefore, in my opinion, be productive of no good result. That the present high price of sugar calls for some increase in the ordinary rate of wages, I freely admit, and I should hope that no planter would be so blind to his interest as to withhold it from his labourers. But that the offer of 1 s. 6 d., or even 2 s. a day, would have the effect of bringing back to the estates negroes who are in the enjoyment of their little properties, is a proposition from which I must respectfully dissent. It might have that effect upon some of those who are in the precarious occupation of Crown or vacant lands, and upon a few idlers in the towns and villages, but it would leave the supply of labour nearly the same as before.

12. The occupiers of Crown lands, and of those belonging to vacant successions in St. Lucia,

ST. LUCIA.

Lucia, are not so numerous as might at first be supposed; very few negroes have their houses upon those lands, and when they occupy them at all it, is merely to make their gardens upon them. No one is more alive to his interest than the negro; he is perfectly aware of the uncertainty of his tenure in relation to all such lands; and, whenever his means admit of it, he is never slow in exchanging that uncertainty for a less exceptionable title elsewhere. Since my assumption of the government several applications have been made to me by parties desirous of being authorised to occupy, or to continue in the occupation of, Crown lands; but I have withheld my sanction in every instance.

13. No supply of labour at all adequate to the wants of the Colony being obtainable from its internal resources, the remedy consists in immigration in some shape or other, and as that of the coolies seems the only kind available for the present, our best exertions should be employed to render it beneficial to all concerned. For that purpose I agree with your Excellency that it is desirable the St. Lucia planters should be prepared to give the coolies a higher rate of wages than that at present established.

14. In my Despatch of the 3d August, No. 66, I stated that the wages in St. Lucia ranged from 10d. to 1s. 5d. per day, according to the localities, the period of the year, and the work performed. To make this more explicit, I may add that an industrious labourer can earn 1s. per day, one working day with another, throughout the year. The annexed table, compiled from returns with which I have been furnished by the stipendiary magistrates, will show the rate of wages obtainable upon the principal estates.

15. The St. Lucia planters seem averse to taskwork, and only resort to it when they are unable to procure regular labour by the day; it prevails, however, to a considerable extent upon many estates. There is no tariff for such work, each job being regulated by mutual agreement between the parties as circumstances arise.

16. There are not in St. Lucia, as in Barbados, classes of labourers to whom different wages are given; the only division here is that of men, women, and boys, whose wages vary accordingly. Upon this point the table already referred to will furnish some further information.

17. Every labourer regularly employed upon an estate is provided with a house and provision grounds free of charge; if not regularly employed, he gives one day's work in the week in the name of rent for his house.

18. In St. Lucia the emancipated negro is not unwilling to work for hire; but if he has money, and finds land to purchase, he prefers to purchase the land; and who can blame him? The white man would do the same in similar circumstances.

19. Before the receipt of the forms transmitted with your Excellency's Despatch of the 19th August, No. 135, Executive, I had prepared a somewhat similar form, copy of which I sent to Dr. Bennett, with a request that he would furnish me with such replies as his experience as a planter might enable him to make.

I am now in possession of Dr. Bennett's answer, copy of which, and of the queries put to him by me, I have the honour to transmit herewith.

20. From Dr. Bennett's statement, your Excellency will perceive the difficulty of filling up those forms of return in anything like a satisfactory shape. That difficulty I have already experienced to a considerable extent; and I resolved at last upon despatching a gentleman to visit the principal estates in the different districts, and collect the particulars as far as practicable from the planters themselves. The person I have selected for this duty is Mr. Dreuil, who, from his experience as a planter of 18 years' standing, and his constant communication with the estates as chief revenue officer, seems well qualified for the task. He has not yet returned to Castries, and I am therefore precluded from forwarding the returns by the present steamer.

21. The annexed return will show the names of the applicants for coolie labourers, the names of the estates, and the number of labourers required in each case. I have written to the different applicants to ascertain the rate of wages they are prepared to give, and shall report the result by the earliest opportunity.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Henry H. Breen,*
Administering the Government.

His Excellency, Francis Hincks, Esq.,
Governor-in-Chief.

A STATEMENT of the current Rate of Wages paid to Agricultural Labourers in the different Districts of *St. Lucia*, as furnished by the Stipendiary Magistrates.

FIRST DISTRICT.

						Field Work.	Manufactory.
Union	-	-	-	-	-	10d. to 1s.	1s. 3d. to 1s. 5d.
Choc	-	-	-	-	-	9½d.	1s.
Roseau	-	-	-	-	-	10d. to 1s.	1s. 3d. to 1s. 5d.
Pearl	-	-	-	-	-	ditto	1s. 3d.
Peru	-	-	-	-	-	ditto	1s. 3d.
Mont d'Or	-	-	-	-	-	ditto	1s. 3d.
Loucis	-	-	-	-	-	ditto	1s. 3d.
Incommode	-	-	-	-	-	ditto	1s. 3d.

SECOND DISTRICT.

Cap	-	-	-	-	-	-	10d.	-	1s.
Anse Canot	-	-	-	-	-	-	10d.	-	1s.
Bois d'Orange	-	-	-	-	-	-	10d. to 1s.	1s. 3d.	
Reduit	-	-	-	-	-	-	ditto	1s. to 1s. 2d.	
Bonne Terre	-	-	-	-	-	-	ditto	1s. 2d.	
Beausejour	-	-	-	-	-	-	ditto	1s. to 3s.	
Marquis	-	-	-	-	-	-	ditto	1s. 3d.	
Grande Anse	-	-	-	-	-	-	10d.	-	1s.
Riche Fonds	-	-	-	-	-	-	10d.	-	1s.
La Caye	-	-	-	-	-	-	10d.	-	1s.
Fond d'Or	-	-	-	-	-	-	10d.	-	1s. 3d.
Ressource	-	-	-	-	-	-	10d.	-	1s.

THIRD DISTRICT.

In the field :—Male labourers, per day, 1s.
 In the manufacture :—Male labourers, per day, 1s. 3d.
 In the field :—Female labourers, per day, 10d.
 In the manufacture :—Female labourers, per day, 1s. 1d.
 In the field :—Children of both sexes, and above ten years, 8d.
 " " Children under ten years, employed in carrying manure in the cane fields, or as stock-keepers, 6d.

FOURTH DISTRICT.

Out of Crop.

To an able-bodied male labourer, per day, 1s.
 A male labourer of ordinary strength, per day, 10d.
 Boys between 12 and 16 years of age, according to their capacities, 4d. to 8d.
 An able female labourer, per day, 10d.
 One of inferior strength, but able to perform a moderate day's work, 8d.
 Girls, according to their physical capabilities, from 4d. to 6d.

During Crop.

Male labourers, per day, from 1s. to 1s. 5d.
 Female labourers, per day, from 10d. to 1s. 2d.
 Boys and girls, per day, from 6d. to 8d.

(Certified correct.)

(signed) *Henry H. Breen,*
 Colonial Secretary.

STATISTICAL Information required for His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief.

1. The cost of labour on an estate, averaging 100 hogsheads sugar.
2. Other expenses classified.
3. Attorney, manager, and overseer's expenses.
4. Cost of conveyance to shipping port.
5. Lumber, staves, stock, taxes.
6. Number of gallons of rum, molasses, other offal; their produce.
7. Ordinary price of rum, exclusive of duty.
8. Ditto of molasses.
9. Average net weight of hogsheads of sugar.
10. The difference in truss.
11. Average and net weight in England.
12. Average freight per cwt.
13. English charges.
14. Cost of labour in time of slavery, on an estate averaging 100 hogsheads.
15. Number of slaves on such an estate.
16. Average price of slaves.
17. The cost of maintaining them.
18. Any other particulars that may occur to you as illustrative of those different points.

(signed) *Henry H. Breen.*

ST. LUCIA.

My dear Sir,

Castries, 31 August 1857.

IN reply to your Excellency's note of the 22d instant, I am sorry to say that I cannot venture to give information as to the average cost of production on sugar estates generally in this colony. I can only speak with anything like certainty as regards my own experience on one or two properties; were I or any other man to do otherwise, you would inevitably be misled, and, like one of your predecessors, Mr. Darling, arrive at very "lame and impotent conclusions."

2. My answer to your first six queries is, that one estate in the immediate neighbourhood of Soufriere, where alone in this Colony is there a hope of continuous labour with water power, with all its works, plant, and plantations in good order, and with ample live stock, can be made to average 100 hogsheads of sugar, with from 30 to 35 puncheons of molasses, at an annual expense of about 1,000*l.*; one-half of this sum (500*l.*) would be required for labour on the estate; the other half would suffice to cover manager's and overseer's salaries, the necessary supplies of stores and lumber, the purchase of one or two mules, and as many oxen, to keep up the live stock to a working average. The 1,000*l.* in question do not refer to interest on capital, nor to the extraordinary casualties to which sugar estates are sometimes liable, such as fire, cattle, epidemics, earthquake, hurricane, and inundation; during my ten years' experience of Soufriere property, I have, save hurricane, suffered from all these calamities. About six years ago my bagasse houses were accidentally burnt; last year I lost 14 negro houses in the same way, and had to incur an extra expense of 150*l.* in rebuilding the latter.

3. In reply to your seventh query, I beg to say that 1*s.* 9*d.* per proof gallon was the average price of rum last year in St. Lucia, and that the price during 1857 has been about 2*s.* 2*d.* per gallon.

4. To query No. 8, I reply, that seven-pence (7*d.*) sterling was the selling price of molasses last year, and that 1*s.* to 1*s.* 2*d.* has been the usual amount paid for the article this year.

5. To queries 9, 10, and 11, I beg to say that the truss of our hogsheads, in the majority of instances, is 38 inches, and that such hogsheads net in England from 14 cwt. to 16 cwt. The difference in the net proceeds arises from the difference in the qualities of the sugars from different districts. The sugars of the Soufriere parish are generally of a lighter and finer description than are the sugars of other parishes.

6. To queries 12 and 13, I reply, that average freight for some years past has been 3*s.* per cwt.; the English charges, including duty, now average about 22*s.* per cwt. The London charges are, I think, a little in excess of those of Liverpool.

7. To queries 14, 15, and 16, I cannot give any reliable information, as my arrival in St. Lucia dates from 1835 only, and it was not until complete emancipation that I had much experience of sugar cultivation.

8. In conclusion, and in reply to your last memorandum, I beg to say that the circumstances attending and governing the cultivation of sugar estates in this colony are very varied and perplexing; such, in fact, is the diversity of soil and climate in this Colony, small as it is, such is the diversity in the topographical characteristics of every estate, such the diversity of their manufacturing powers, and into such a diversity of hands have their managements fallen, that to attempt to average or draw general conclusions from individual reports of estates, however correct these individual reports may be, would be sure to lead to error. The capabilities and futures of St. Lucia are not to be foretold from its present condition. I verily believe that nowhere is the old proverb that, "God sends meat, and the devil sends cooks," so well illustrated as in St. Lucia. Nearly all the best estates are either in bad hands, or are badly situated as regards labour; by "bad hands," I mean, are in the hands of people who are either bankrupt in capital or credit, or nearly so, or who, possessing both capital and credit, possess not the necessary pluck and enterprise to turn the resources of their properties to better account than they now do. The prevalence of these two classes of people, and the sure, but steady decrease of the available labour on all the larger sugar estates of the Colony, are its great evils now-a-days; and it is my firm opinion that unless a continuance of present prices, coupled with a large introduction of new labourers, take place, those great stimuli of social progress, credit and capital, will gradually diminish and be extinguished, and no civilised person of enterprise, education, or capital will find it worth his while to remain in, or to attempt to turn the resources of the Colony to good account. From the year 1835 up to 1857 I have witnessed a sad, but steady decline in the respectability and means of the upper classes; and unless the future offer a better reward to intelligence and worth than has done this long period, the whole standard of morality and social order will infallibly and gradually sink to a lower and a lower level.

His Excellency H. H. Breen, Esq.,
Administrator of the Government.

I have, &c.
(signed) Charles Bennett.

List of Applications for Coolie Immigrants.

Name of Applicant.	Name of Estate.	Number of Immigrants wanted.	Name of Applicant.	Name of Estate.	Number of Immigrants wanted.
Hon. J. Pollock -	Bois d'Orange -	15	John Goodman -	Pointe Sable -	30
Ditto - - -	Bonne Terre -	10	Ditto - - -	Retraite - - -	20
Ditto - - -	Reduit - - -	10	Charles Bonnet -	Beausejour - -	20
Ditto - - -	Beausejour -	10	J. Godineau - -	Tourny - - -	20
Lucianna King -	Belle Plaine -	30	S. Weeks - - -	Beausejour - -	20
Devaux Desrivieres	Morne Combaril	10	Ditto - - -	Ressource - - -	15
R. W. Lloyd - -	River Dorée and Degatiere.	50	F. Garnier - - -	Pointe - - -	20
Chas. G. Delaubenque	Beausejour - -	10	L. Glandon - - -	Marigot - - -	10
Glace Aisé - - -	Fond Doux - -	4	Hon. J. P. Lenger	Anse Galet - -	25
F. Carteau - - -	Two Friends and Esperance.	25	Joseph Goodman -	Union - - -	30
			John Grant - - -	Marquis - - -	20
			P. Clement - - -	Grand Anse - -	15
			C de Brettes - -	Cap - - -	15
Drouilhet - - -	Jalousie - - -	15	Ditto - - -	Bon Esperance -	15
Aglé Tharel - -	Diamond - - -	12	A. Constable - -	Richefonds - -	15

Certified correct,

(signed)

Henry H. Breen,
Colonial Secretary.

Enclosure 5, in No. 2.

Encl. 5, in No. 2.

(No. 143.)

Windward Islands, Barbadoes,
9 September 1857.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 3d instant, No. 83, Executive, together with its several enclosures, and which is in reply to mine of the 19th ultimo, in which I communicated to you the opinions which I had formed on the labour question of the West Indies.

2. I observe, with much satisfaction, that your opinion, formed after an experience such as very few persons have had the benefit of, is in accordance with my own on what I consider the point of essential importance, viz., that free labour is infinitely cheaper than slave.

3. I entirely concur with you as to the causes of failure, when such has occurred, with this single reservation, that I have never yet been able to trace a single case in which an estate has been thrown out of cultivation, or the proprietor seriously injured from want of labour. In point of fact, the greatest complaints of distress have been made at periods when, owing to the low price of sugar, the cultivation was said to be unprofitable, and when, of course, there was little inducement to the capitalist to employ labour.

4. I concur generally in your remarks regarding the small creole proprietors. You seem to have misunderstood me on one important point. I never meant to express an opinion that it would be desirable to prevent a labourer from investing his earnings in land. I subscribe unreservedly to all that you have expressed on that subject. I only wish that the planters would, for their own sakes, encourage such valuable members of society to cultivate the sugar cane by manufacturing for them on more liberal terms.

5. I had reference to a class of persons generally known as squatters, and supposed to occupy lands to which they have no claim, and for which they pay no rent. I meant to express an opinion which I believe is strictly correct, that the planters have failed to hold out sufficient inducements to retain their labourers. I believe that they would have acted wisely had they encouraged the creoles to remain on their estates on any terms, and that they might have succeeded in doing so to a very considerable extent.

6. I confess that you have not succeeded in convincing me of the liberality of the planters of St. Lucia. I cannot believe that anything would prevent an extensive emigration from Barbadoes, where there is unquestionably a considerable surplus of labour, and where land is very dear, to the adjoining Colonies, where labour is said to be scarce and land cheap, if proper inducements were held out to the labourers.

7. It is generally admitted that Barbadoes could spare a considerable number of labourers, enough probably to supply the demands of the planters in the other islands of this Government. It is likewise well known that emigration has been tried, and that the Barbadian labourers are dissatisfied with their treatment in other Colonies.

8. With regard to St. Lucia, it appears from your statement, that the rate of wages is quite as low as at Barbadoes, while the planters "seem averse to taskwork, and only resort to it when they are unable to procure regular labour by the day." I find that the vicious system which has been almost entirely abandoned in Barbadoes, of mixing up the questions of rent and labour, prevails in St. Lucia.

9. It must be quite obvious that labourers will not be attracted to St. Lucia from Barbadoes so long as the advantages are manifestly on the side of the Colony where the labour is superabundant. You express the universal opinion held in these Colonies, when you affirm

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that the labour of the native population is the most suitable for them, and that Africa would be the quarter from which a deficiency could be most advantageously supplied.

10. Unfortunately there is no disposition on the part of Africans to emigrate to the West Indies, and hence the demand for coolies. I admit freely that I have the strongest repugnance to this immigration. I believe that it would be infinitely better that less sugar should be made in the West Indian Colonies than that labour should be supplied by such means.

11. But I am not satisfied that any case can be made out to justify such an exceptional policy. I believe that the tendency of this immigration is to prevent the planters from taking those measures which would, in all probability, insure them an adequate supply of creole labour.

12. I have shown clearly that the St. Lucia planters have not held out any adequate inducements to the creole labourers in this island to emigrate, and that while property is, perhaps, six times as valuable in Barbadoes as in St. Lucia, the estate labourer is better off in the former Colony.

13. It is not therefore to be wondered at, that the labourer in St. Lucia takes the first opportunity to purchase land for himself, and that his place is not supplied by others.

14. You have expressed no opinion, as to whether proper encouragement has been given to the labourers to cultivate the sugar cane for themselves. I am aware that the small proprietors are doing so to a great extent. It is obviously the surest mode of attracting labourers. I am thoroughly convinced that in no other Colony has that encouragement been given to the same extent as in Barbadoes, and the impression which I formed in St. Lucia was, that the planters discouraged the cultivation of the cane by their oppressive charges for the manufacture.

15. I have read Dr. Bennett's letter with great attention. I cannot admit, either that there would be any difficulty in filling up the form of return which I sent, or that the result would be unsatisfactory. My object was to compare the cost of cultivation in St. Lucia with that in Barbadoes. I adopted a form agreed upon by two agricultural societies, the members of which are experienced planters, and I have found no difficulty here in getting the most detailed information from every manager to whom I have applied. I have got returns from estates in various parts of the island, and having soils of a different character.

16. As to the conclusion to be drawn from these returns I would observe, that what I want to ascertain is simply this: Is the cultivation of the cane more expensive in St. Lucia than in Barbadoes; and if so, what is the cause for its being so? In order to satisfy my mind on this point, I do not require returns from more than a very few estates in different localities. Dr. Bennett has given his experience of one in the Soufrière Quarter. The produce averages 100 hogsheads, and the expense of cultivation is 1,000*l.*, one half of which is said to be for labour. The net weight of the hogsheads in England is estimated at from 14 to 16 cwt. The Barbadoes average was 15 cwt. There is no material difference in the cost of production or in the proportion of labour. It would have been more satisfactory had the statement given the quantity of land in cane cultivation, and also the proportion, if any, of ratoons. Dr. Bennett does not account for any rum.

17. It is of course impossible to arrive at any satisfactory conclusion as to the cost of cultivation without knowing the extent of cane land, but I see nothing in this statement to lead me to doubt its being a fair estimate.

18. Dr. Bennett seems to fear, that in drawing conclusions from such statements as his own, a person may be misled. Now the cost of labour appears to be tolerably uniform throughout the island, and about half the expense of cultivation is under this head. I am unaware that there is any other branch of expense that should be materially higher in one part of the island than another. Inferiority in soil, remoteness from market, liability to drought, would of course affect the value of the estate. Such questions may be important to the purchaser of a particular estate, but they have little bearing on the subject of my inquiry.

19. It appears from Dr. Bennett's statement, that sugar can be produced at about the same rate in St. Lucia as in Barbadoes: viz., at 10*l.* per hogshead, gross, or deducting the offal crop, at about 8*l.*, or probably 11*s.* per cwt. Now when the last complaints were made to Parliament of the distress in the West India Colonies, the returns from six estates in St. Lucia showed that the net proceeds had been from 16*s.* to 17*s.* 3*d.* per cwt.

20. It is true there was a wide difference in the cost of production, which was in some cases more than double what it was in others. In one single instance it was as low as 10*s.*, and in two cases it was above 20*s.* I may observe, however, that the estates on which the cost of production was the lowest were conducted on the métairie system, and can therefore hardly be considered a fair estimate.

21. I am fully convinced that sugar can be produced, on an average of years, in St. Lucia at about 10*s.* per cwt., and that any excess over that rate must be owing to extravagant or bad management, or to some casualty.

22. Dr. Bennett is of opinion that nearly all the best estates are either in bad hands or badly situated as regards labour; and he explains that he means by bad hands, persons bankrupt in capital or credit, or who, possessing both, are deficient in enterprise. He is of opinion that there has been, from 1835 to 1857, a steady decline in the respectability and means of the upper classes; whereas I find that your opinion, based upon your knowledge of the transactions at the registrar's office, is that many planters have paid off old debts and have

have become enriched; and I am myself aware that the proportion of resident proprietors in St. Lucia is large as compared with other Colonies.

23. I must now approach the practical question, which is the rate of wages which the planters of St. Lucia are prepared to offer to immigrants. You state in paragraph 11 of your Despatch, that the offer of an increase of wages to the labourers "would be productive of no good result;" but in paragraph 13 you express an opinion that the planters should be prepared to give the coolies a higher rate of wages than that at present established.

24. The point to be ascertained is, whether the St. Lucia planters are prepared to offer the Demerara rates for labour, which certainly cannot be stated at less than 1 s. 6 d. per day for the usual tasks. I understand from your Despatch that you have applied to the planters demanding labour for information on this head.

25. For my own part, I have no doubt that wages in St. Lucia ought to be increased to 1 s. 6 d., a fair rent being charged per acre for land, and for a house when supplied; and if this increase were accompanied by more liberal treatment of the labourers, I have little doubt that the demand for labour would be fully met.

His Honor
the Administrator of St. Lucia.

I have, &c.
(signed) F. Hincks.

Enclosure 6, in No. 2.

Encl. 6, in No. 2.

(No. 92.)

Sir,

St. Lucia, 19 September 1857.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's Despatch of the 9th instant, No. 143, in reply to mine of the 3d instant, on the subject of the labour question in the West Indies.

2. I am much gratified to find that the views which I had ventured to express on this question have generally met with your Excellency's concurrence, and I shall now offer some further remarks which have been suggested to me by the perusal of your Excellency's Despatch.

3. No comparison can, in my opinion, be instituted, upon anything like fair grounds, between two Colonies whose circumstances differ so materially as Barbadoes and St. Lucia. The fact that the Barbadoes estates can command a superabundance of labour, while those of St. Lucia are nearly abandoned, may be traced to causes altogether unconnected with the treatment of the labourers. The Barbadian finds no unoccupied tracts of land to purchase or to squat upon, and if he is dissatisfied he has no alternative but to emigrate. The resolution to do so, however, is no sooner formed than it is combated by his well known attachment to the place of his birth, and hence the facility of retaining him upon the estates. All these circumstances are reversed in the case of the St. Lucia labourer, and no inducement at all compatible with the profitable cultivation of the estates is sufficient to secure his labour if he can avoid it.

4. In spite of the attachment of the Barbadian to his native country, and the other motives which are supposed to retain him upon the estates, his unwillingness to emigrate may be overcome; and I quite agree with your Excellency that we have here a supply of labour which, if properly managed, might have been turned to good account by the other Colonies, and by none more than by St. Lucia. It is well known that great numbers of Barbadians have emigrated to Trinidad, Demerara, and St. Kitt's. A few also have occasionally been introduced into St. Lucia, and I may instance, as a sign of the times, that Mr. John Goodman, jun., has just imported 21 of them for the Pointe Sable estate, in the quarter of Vieux Fort.

5. The great difficulty as regards Barbadian immigrants, is that the planter who goes to the expense and trouble of importing them is the one who derives least advantage from their services. The scarcity of labour gives rise to competition, and an unscrupulous neighbour often contrives to attract the new comers by the offer of higher wages. In many instances this sort of rivalry has been attended with the worst results to both parties, and hence the little encouragement given by our planters to this species of immigration. Otherwise the labourers that have been introduced from that quarter have proved a valuable acquisition to some of the estates, nor does it appear that they are dissatisfied with the treatment they have received.

6. I have no more partiality for coolie immigration than your Excellency, and I am persuaded it will prove in the end both expensive and troublesome; but in the absence of native labourers, of African labourers, and of Barbadian labourers, except with the risks just adverted to, our planters seem to rely upon coolie immigration as their only resource, and as measures have been adopted for carrying out this scheme, I think it should have a fair trial. So long as the price of sugar is kept up, as at present, it will be difficult to convince the planters that any means which will have the effect of increasing the production of that great staple can be injurious to the Colony.

7. I am not prepared to say that the St. Lucia planters have given much encouragement to the labourers to cultivate the sugar-cane. Planting in halves, however, prevails upon several estates, and the Richfonds, in the quarter of Dennery, is cultivated entirely upon that principle. Where the cultivation in halves is on the planter's land, the latter finds all the stock and the carts to carry the canes when cut by the labourer, pays all the expense of manufacturing

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manufacturing them, and furnishes the hogsheds, and the means of transport to the shipping port. If the labourers would pay the expenses of manufacture, the St. Lucia planters in general would be glad to grind their canes for a third of the produce.

8. In my former Despatch I stated, in one paragraph, that "the offer of an increase of wages could be productive of no good result," and in another that "the planters should be prepared to give the coolies a higher rate of wages than that at present established." The distinction here is obvious enough; in the former case, I am speaking of the creole labourers, and I assert, what I know to be the case, that an increase of wages, so far as they are concerned, would be productive of no good result,—of no result at all commensurate with your Excellency's expectations of inducing them to return to the estates. In the latter case, I am speaking of the coolie labourers, and an increase of wages which would have no effect in attracting the creoles might be a sufficient inducement to the coolies.

9. Through the zealous exertions of Mr. Chief Revenue Officer Dreuil, I am now enabled to return to your Excellency five of the forms transmitted with your Despatch of 19th August, No. 135, containing much valuable statistical information regarding sugar cultivation in this Colony. Mr. Dreuil was engaged during three weeks in collecting these particulars on the different estates, and I trust they will prove satisfactory to your Excellency.

10. To the circular which I addressed to the applicants for coolie labourers, in order to ascertain the rate of wages they are prepared to give them, I have received several replies, from which I have drawn up the annexed statement.

Your Excellency will see that, with the exception of Mr. De Brettes, who seems to prefer job work, the planters are ready to give the coolies one shilling per day; and, if we take into account the advantages which they will enjoy on the score of house, garden, medical attendance, and the low price of necessaries as compared with Demerara and Trinidad, I think we may affirm, without exaggeration, that this condition of the coolies in St. Lucia will be little, if at all, inferior to that in which they are placed in these Colonies.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. H. Breen*,
Administrator of the Government.

His Excellency Francis Hincks, Esq.,
Governor-in-Chief.

STATEMENT showing the Rate of Wages offered by Applicants for Coolie Labourers in St. Lucia.

Name of Estate	Name of Owner.	Rate of Wages, &c.
Beausejour, Vieuxfort - -	Samuel Weeks - -	1 s. per day; 1 s. 3 d. to 1 s. 5 d. in mill or boiling-house.
Beausejour, Soufriere - -	Ch. de Laubengue - -	1 s. per day to the males; 10 d. to females.
Morne, Combaril, ditto - -	H. Devaux Desrivieres - -	1 s. per day to both males and females.
Marquis, Dauphin - - -	John Grant - - -	1 s. per day to males, 10 d. to females; 1 s. 3 d. in mill or boiling-house.
Pointe Sable, Vieuxfort - -	John Goodman, jun. - -	1 s. per day to males, 10 d. to females; 1 s. 4 d. in mill or boiling-house.
Belle Plaine, Soufriere - -	Mrs. Luciana King - -	1 s. to 1 s. 3 d. per day.
Cap, Gros Ilet - - -	*Charles de Brettes - -	10 d. per day; 1 s. to 1 s. 2 d. per day for taskwork.
Two Friends, Anse Laraye - -	F. Carteau - - -	1 s. per day to males, and 10 d. to females.

N.B.—In every instance the labourers are to be provided with house, garden, and medical attendance.

Encl. 7, in No. 2.

(No. 149.)

Enclosure 7, in No. 2.

Sir,

Windward Islands, Barbadoes, 25 September 1857.

YOUR Despatch of the 19th instant (No. 92, Executive), containing further observations on the labour question, as it affects St. Lucia, has engaged my consideration; I shall, for the present, confine my remarks in reply to the practical point to which my attention has been directed by the Secretary of State, which is the rate of wages that the coolie immigrant labourers should be entitled to receive. It will, I trust, be sufficiently obvious to the applicants for labour in St. Lucia, that there must be one uniform rate, and that it should be fully understood by the immigrants what they have to expect. It appears that you have received propositions from eight planters, and that of these, seven name 1 s. per day as the wages

wages per man. Only one proposes to give the same wages to females as to males, while three take no notice whatever of females; the others state 10*d.* per day as the rate for females. Three of the applicants offer a higher rate of wages for labourers employed in the mill or boiling-house; one naming 1*s.* 3*d.*, and another 1*s.* 4*d.*, another 1*s.* 3*d.* to 1*s.* 5*d.* per day.

It must be conceded that, according to custom, the labourer in the mill or boiling-house is entitled to higher wages than when working in the field. Judging from the proposals accompanying your Despatch, I am of opinion that the wages might be fixed at 11*d.* per day for females, 1*s.* for males, 1*s.* 4*d.* when employed in the mill or boiling-house, and that no coolie should be allowed to enter into contract for less than those rates. These are the wages proposed by Mr. Goodman, a planter of considerable influence, and who has been the most precise of all in his propositions except Mr. Grant, and there is no material difference between the two. It would be desirable that you should ascertain whether the applicants for labour are willing to accept immigrants on these terms. It ought also to be understood what quantity of land the labourers are entitled to, as the term garden is very indefinite. It probably should be expressed, not less than half an acre of land. I shall be glad to be able to report to the Secretary of State, as early as possible, that this arrangement, which I hope will be considered satisfactory, has been carried into effect.

His Honor the Administrator,
St. Lucia.

I have, &c.
(signed) F. Hincks.

Enclosure 8, in No. 2.

Encl. 8, in No. 2.

(No. 160.)

Windward Islands, Barbados, 9 October 1857.

Sir,

In my Despatch of the 25th September (No. 149, Executive) I deemed it expedient to confine my remarks to the propositions made by certain proprietors in St. Lucia, with regard to the wages to be given to coolie immigrants.

2. The planters generally have, doubtless, been made aware of the objection which has been raised in India to the migration of coolies to Colonies giving a lower rate of wages than that which prevails in British Guiana, and they must themselves be the sole judges of the price which it is their interest to offer under the circumstances.

3. I took the opportunity, when making inquiries on this subject, to endeavour to satisfy my own mind as to the extent of the withdrawal of labour from the sugar estates in St. Lucia since the period of emancipation, and also as to the present cost of production in that Colony, compared with what it was in the time of slavery, and with what it now is in Barbados.

4. It is satisfactory to me to find, in the returns which you have transmitted to me, much valuable information, although I cannot hope that we shall arrive at the same conclusion from the facts before us.

5. In paragraph 9 of my Despatch to Lieutenant-Governor Kortright, of the 14th August (No. 117, Executive), a copy of which is in your possession, I stated the cost of producing 100 lbs. of sugar, in Barbados, to be \$3 $\frac{2}{3}$, or 16*s.* 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* sterling, without deducting the value of the offal crop; but I observed that this was the maximum cost, and that my own opinion, formed after careful inquiry was, that at least 20 per cent. might be deducted therefrom, which would reduce it to 13*s.* 3*d.* per 100 lbs.

6. I have examined the returns obtained by Mr. Dreuil from eight estates in St. Lucia, and which were transmitted in your Despatch of the 19th ultimo (No. 92), and I have found the average cost per 100 lbs. to be 14*s.* 9*d.* I must, however, observe that this average has been brought up owing to the heavy cost of production on two estates, belonging to an absentee proprietor, and which appear to be badly located and expensively managed. Excluding those estates, the average cost of production on the other six is 13*s.* 8*d.* per 100 lbs.

7. I have compared Mr. Dreuil's return with one prepared by your predecessor, Mr. Drysdale, to accompany his report on the Blue Book for 1855, and which gives the cost of production on 12 estates, the average being 12*s.* 6*d.* per cwt., or rather above 11*s.* per 100 lbs.; and the highest of the 12, with one exception, being under the lowest rate stated by me as the cost of production in Barbados.

8. The items of which the cost of production is made up, have been given for two out of the 12 estates returned by Mr. Drysdale, and do not materially differ from those furnished by Mr. Dreuil. The average cost of labour on the eight estates, embraced in the returns of the latter, is 6*s.* 3*d.* per 100 lbs., or, excluding the two adverted to in paragraph 6, 5*s.* 10*d.* per 100 lbs., whereas, according to the estimate of the Agricultural Societies of Barbados, the cost of labour in this colony is 7*s.* 4*d.* per 100 lbs. In Mr. Drysdale's return no allowance is made for the rum and molasses; and, according to Mr. Dreuil's statement, the product of those articles is much below the estimate of the Barbados planters,

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planters, owing, not to low prices, but to deficient quantities. The price of molasses in St. Lucia, according to Mr. Dreuil's return, is 8*d.* per gallon, or 20 per cent. less than the Barbados estimate, but the price of rum, which is the more important article, is the same, viz. 1*s.* 8*d.* per gallon. It is considered here, that there should be 40 gallons of rum and 20 of molasses to the hogshead of sugar, averaging about 1,700 lbs.

9. I am unable to concur in the opinion which you have expressed in paragraph 3 of your Despatch of the 19th ultimo, No. 92, that no comparison can be instituted upon anything like fair grounds, between Barbados and St. Lucia. It is perfectly true that there is a superabundant population in the one, and an alleged deficiency in the other, but labour is only one element in the cost of producing sugar, and, moreover, owing to causes to which I shall not here advert, it is actually not dearer in St. Lucia than in Barbados, or, to express myself more correctly, there is not more paid for labour per 100 lbs. of sugar, in the former than in the latter Colony.

10. The question to be considered, however, is not the relative proportion of labourers in Barbados and St. Lucia, but whether the latter Colony possesses a sufficient supply of labour for the cultivation of the sugar estates at present occupied. It is not without some hesitation that I venture to dispute the correctness of an assertion universally made by the planting interest, and very generally credited, viz. that there is a deficiency of labour in St. Lucia, but I can arrive at no other conclusion from the facts presented to me, than that instead of there being a deficiency, the supply is abundant.

11. I am of opinion that the price of labour, like that of commodities, is regulated according to the demand and supply. If, owing to scarcity, the price should become so high that the capitalist could not employ labourers with profit, he would cease to do so, and, unless other profitable employment could be found, the labourers would be compelled to give way. On the other hand, if the capitalists could afford to increase wages, a deficiency of labourers ought, most assuredly, to lead to an advance in the price of labour.

12. I have shown that according to the returns of the St. Lucia planters themselves, the cost of producing sugar in that Colony is less than it is in Barbados, irrespective of the highly important item of interest on invested capital, which is at least 10*s.* per 100 lbs. in the latter Colony, while it cannot be more than 2*s.* per 100 lbs. in St. Lucia. The St. Lucia planters might therefore double their present rate of wages, and yet be able to carry on cultivation with as much advantage as those in Barbados.

13. I confess that I can account for the low rate of wages in St. Lucia, in no other way than by attributing it either to superabundance of labour, or to a general determination on the part of the employers to keep it down. I am aware that a strict surveillance is exercised by the planters over the proceedings of individual members of the body, which in some Colonies has had the effect of deterring men of experience and skill from carrying out economical reforms in the system.

14. Your remark in paragraph 5, of Despatch No. 92, "An unscrupulous neighbour often contrives to attract the new comer by the offer of higher wages," is in accordance with the doctrine that men are not to be governed in their offers for labour by what they can afford to pay, but by an established rate supported by combination.

15. If liberal wages were generally given, the superabundant labour of Barbados would, I have little doubt, be offered in St. Lucia, without the necessity of the planters defraying the expenses of the emigrants.

But I think that there is too much reason to fear that immigration has been resorted to rather to keep down the price of labour, than because it is required for the cultivation of the estates.

16. Though I am of opinion that there can be no better test of a sufficient supply of labour than the price which it commands, and that, so long as that remains as low in St. Lucia as in Barbados, where labour is universally admitted to be superabundant, it cannot be fairly argued that there is a deficiency in the former Colony, yet I have endeavoured to satisfy my mind on the point by other inquiries.

17. As Mr. Dreuil was unable to procure much information that I desired, and as consequently I have no sufficient data in his returns to enable me to judge to what extent cane land has been thrown out of cultivation in St. Lucia since emancipation, I must rely mainly on other sources of information. The three estates from which he obtained full returns appear to have had 273 acres in cane during slavery, and 224 acres at the present time.

18. I have ascertained from a table published in your own work on St. Lucia, that the average export of sugar during the nine years ending in 1834 was equal to 4,728 hogsheads of 1,700 lbs. each, while the largest export in any one year was 6,610 hogsheads. There certainly has been a falling off in the export, but not to such an extent as to indicate any serious disturbance of the labour market, especially when it is borne in mind how much the operations on several considerable estates have been crippled of late, and that grievous complaints have been made by the labourers in some quarters of a want of capital to pay their wages.

19. Mr. Drysdale returns the number of acres of land in canes, in 1855, at 3,253, and I feel persuaded that 4,500 acres is a full estimate for the estates at present occupied in St.

St. Lucia; indeed, that breadth of land, if skilfully cultivated, would yield a crop much larger than the Colony has ever exported. I presume that in returning the number of acres cultivated in canes Mr. Drysdale has reference to what was actually under crop. In Barbados the cane land is usually half under crop, and half in preparation, except in those quarters where a system of ratooning can be carried out.

20. To prevent misunderstanding, then, I mean that 4,500 acres may be considered as the average quantity of land which was under crop in St. Lucia in former times, and if properly cultivated the produce from such land should be from 10,000,000 to 12,000,000 lbs. of sugar, or from 6,000 to 7,000 hogsheads, averaging 1,700 lbs. each. I am of opinion that it would be unadvisable to attempt the formation of new sugar estates in St. Lucia, and I do not imagine that the planters themselves would desire to increase the competition for labour. Some of the present estates are so unfavourably situated with regard to distance from convenient shipping ports, that they can never be very profitably managed. An export of 7,000 hogsheads from eighty estates would be as high an average as that of Barbados, and to obtain such a result it would be necessary to increase considerably the capital at present employed in sugar cultivation in St. Lucia. It remains for me to consider what amount of labour would be sufficient to produce such a crop as that estimated, which I have shown to be greater than was exported from the Colony under a high protective system.

21. Judging from the best information within my reach, I should say that from 2,500 to 3,000 labourers would be an abundant supply. Lord Harris, in estimating the labouring population of Trinidad gives 100, including the aged and the sick, as a fair proportion for 200 hogsheads of sugar, but his Lordship observes it might be done with "less; in fact, there are those who have assured me that they can manage with the work of from 30 to 50 for 200 hogsheads." This very low estimate is doubtless owing to the extent to which ratooning is practised in Trinidad. In estimating the required labour for 200 hogsheads at from 75 to 85 hands, I am aware that I am rather under the Barbados average, which may be stated at 100 men, women and children, but I feel persuaded that I am correct. Owing to the superabundance of labour in Barbados there are not sufficient means of employing it, and it is a well known fact, that except during crop time, the estate labourers are generally restricted to one task per day, which is not much if at all over half a day's work.

22. You will find, then, that the number of labourers required to produce a crop of sugar equal to what has been exported in recent years from St. Lucia would be, taking the high Barbados average, 2,000, and according to my very sufficient estimate, 1,600, while to raise the export to 7,000 hogsheads 3,500, or 2,800 would be sufficient.

23. I find from a statement appended to Mr. Drysdale's report on the Blue Book for 1855, that the numbers actually employed in St. Lucia during the years 1851-2-3-4, and 5, were respectively 3,807, 3,942, 3,718, 3,180, and 3,201. The return gives the greatest number employed at one time during the year, but states the average to have been 2,400. These figures indicate very clearly that in crop time there was a considerable increase in the supply of labour, and that there was no permanent demand for it. It will scarcely be denied by any one acquainted with St. Lucia that the falling off in the number of labourers employed in 1854 and 1855 is to be attributed to the inability of the proprietors of some very extensive estates to pay wages.

24. I am of opinion that the evidence which I have furnished from official documents is sufficient proof that there is an ample supply of labour in St. Lucia available not only for the present limited demand, but for the working of the estates to an extent beyond what they have ever been cultivated. There can, however, be no doubt that the labour is not economically managed. In the 15th paragraph of your Despatch of the 3d ultimo, No. 83, you state that "the St. Lucia planters seem averse to taskwork." In Barbados the system of taskwork has been universally adopted, and has been found a powerful incentive to industry. I have no doubt that it would add fifty per cent. to the available labour of St. Lucia.

25. It may seem extraordinary, that the disbursements for labour should be greater on a Barbados than on a St. Lucia estate, but it is I think to be ascribed to the large outlay in this colony for weeding and moulding.

26. I have been struck in examining the items of expense in St. Lucia with the heavy cost of management as compared with Barbados, and indeed it would appear that the residents pay more under the head of managers and overseers than the absentees. Malgre'tout, with a resident proprietor, and having only 54 acres of canes, yielding under 100 hogsheads of sugar, disburses 300 *l.* for managers, while Fond'or, the property of a non-resident, with 102 acres in canes, yielding 121 hogsheads only, disburses 170 *l.* In Barbados there are proprietors of the highest social standing, who manage their own estates. The average cost of management in this island is estimated at 1 *s.* 3 *d.* per 100 lbs., while on the estates returned by Mr. Dreuil, it is 2 *s.* 6 *d.* Again the cost of manufacturing the sugar is much higher in St. Lucia than in Barbados, where the estimate is 5 dollars per hogshead. These are the chief items of excess in St. Lucia, except where freight is incurred.

27. An opinion is prevalent in this island, and I am myself aware that it is not without foundation, that the other islands have suffered from the want of punctuality in the payment of wages to the labourers. In Barbados the practice of paying weekly has long been universal, and I am persuaded that it has had a most excellent effect.

ST. LUCIA.

28. The influence of agricultural societies in promoting economy, has been highly advantageous to Barbados. A sub-committee visits periodically the estates of the members, and makes a full report as to their condition and management, which is most useful to the proprietors, and especially to those who are absentees. In my Despatch to Lieutenant Governor Kortright, I have adverted to the encouragement given to the labourers to cultivate the sugar-cane on their own account, and I consider that I have sufficiently established the fact, that notwithstanding the admitted superabundance of labour in Barbados, and the alleged deficiency of it in St. Lucia, the planters in the latter Colony have not held out any adequate inducement to the labourer in the former to emigrate.

29. With reference to paragraph 8 of your Despatch of the 19th ultimo, No. 92, I presume that, although you think that an increase of wages to creoles would be productive of no good, yet it would have been resorted to if conceded to the coolies. The planters surely would not attempt to make a distinction unfavourable to the former. I need scarcely observe that I retain the opinion expressed in a former Despatch, that low wages, and the neglect on the part of the planters to encourage the labourers to cultivate the sugar-cane on their own allotments have operated to drive labour into less profitable employment, from which it may now be difficult to divert it. Further withdrawal can only be prevented by the adoption of a more liberal policy towards the labourers.

30. You have expressed an opinion in paragraph 3 of your Despatch of the 19th September that "the Barbadian finds no unoccupied tracts of land to purchase," and I infer from your own remarks on this subject that you have formed a very exaggerated estimate of the proportion of small landed proprietors in St. Lucia as compared with Barbados. The return marked D, in the Appendix to Mr. Drysdale's report on the Blue Book for 1855, to which you refer to prove the extent of small purchases in St. Lucia, states the number of rural proprietors holding property under 10 acres to be 484, and of these holding more than 10 acres to be 249. The last Barbados return shows that there were 3,537 proprietors holding less than five acres, and 1,155 holding more than that quantity. The number of sugar estates was 508, only 45 of which exceeded 400 acres, and very few were under 10. The St. Lucia return embraces a period from 1829 to 1856. In 1840 the aggregate number of Barbados proprietors was 1,874, of which 1,367 held under 10 acres. In 16 years that number had increased to 4,692. Notwithstanding, therefore, the high price of land, it would appear from these returns that the labouring classes in Barbados have purchased small properties to a greater extent in proportion to population than in St. Lucia.

31. If it be true, as you state in paragraph 3, of No. 92, that "no inducement at all compatible with the profitable cultivation of the estates," is sufficient to secure the labour of the creole, if he can avoid it, it seems to me that no other inference can be drawn than that the cultivation of provisions is more profitable than that of the sugar-cane.

I have a very strong opinion to the contrary. I entertain no doubt that the cultivation of the cane is by far the most profitable mode in which labour can be employed, and as you admit that the creole labourer fully understands his own interests, it may be inferred that a sufficient inducement should lead him to remain on the sugar estates. I assert with confidence that no such inducement has been held out to him in St. Lucia, and that where a labourer abandons the estates, it is because he finds raising provisions the most profitable employment within his reach. You admit, in paragraph 7 of No. 92, that you cannot say that the St. Lucia planters have encouraged their labourers to cultivate the cane on their own account. This is not the only instance in which they have, in my opinion, pursued a course prejudicial to their own interests, and I fear that they are too much averse to change to adopt any improvement in their system.

32. I have considered it proper to place on record the opinion which I have formed on this question from the facts before me. My earnest advice to the planters of St. Lucia is to rely for the cultivation of their estates on the ample supply of labour in their own island, and on that which, if they give liberal wages and facilities for cane cultivation to their labourers, they would obtain by voluntary immigration. They cannot reasonably expect to obtain a considerable number of immigrants of any kind, so long as they keep the rate of wages below that which prevails in the Colonies which are competing with them for an additional supply of labour.

His Honor the Administrator,
St. Lucia.

I have, &c.
(signed) *F. Hincks.*

Enclosure 9, in No. 2.

Encl. 9, in No. 2.

(No. 111.)

Sir,

St. Lucia, 17 October 1857.

ON the 29th September I addressed to the different applicants for coolie immigrants, a circular letter, in terms of your Excellency's Despatch of the 25th September, No. 149, Executive, copy of which I have the honour to enclose. To this letter I have received replies from the following parties, expressing their willingness to give the proposed wages, namely, Mr. De Laubenque, of Beausejour, Mr. Desriviere, of Morne Courbaril, Mr. Glace, of Fond Douse, Mr. Carteau, of Two Friends, Mr. Drouilhet, of Jalousie, Miss Tharel, of Diamond,

Diamond, Mr. John Goodman, of Pointe Sable, Mr. Glandor, of Marigot, Mr. Laroche, of Ravine Claire, Mr. Garnier, of Pointe, and Mr. Weeks, of Beausejour.

ST. LUCIA.

His Excellency Francis Hincks, Esq.,
Governor-in-Chief.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. H. Breen*,
Administrator of the Government.

Sir,

Government Office, 29 September 1857.

It being desirable that an uniform rate of wages for coolie labourers should be established throughout the Colony, I have the honour to request you to state whether you are willing to accept immigrants at the following rates, namely, 10*d.* per day for females, 1*s.* for males, and 1*s.* 4*d.* when employed in the mill or boiling-house. It is understood that the immigrants are to be provided with houses and medical attendance, and to have in name of "garden" not less than half an acre of land. I am to add that no coolies will be allowed to enter into contract for less than those rates.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. H. Breen*,
Administrator of the Government.

— No. 3. —

(No. 37.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Hincks* to the Right Honourable
Sir *E. B. Lytton*, Bart.

Windward Islands, Barbados, 10 July 1858.

(Received, 2 August 1858.)

Sir,

(Answered, No. 14, 4 September 1858, p. 28.)

With reference to Lord Stanley's Despatch of the 27th April,* I have now the honour to transmit the copy of a Despatch from Mr. Breen, communicating the views of the Executive Council on the suggestions made by the Commissioners, to facilitate the emigration of coolies to St. Lucia.

I think it is to be regretted that no emigrant ship was despatched to St. Lucia during the late season, and I venture to recommend that two vessels should be sent next year, to compensate for the omission.

I have, &c.
(signed) *F. Hincks*.

No. 3.
Governor *Hincks*
to the Right Hon.
Sir *E. B. Lytton*,
Bart.
10 July 1858.

* Page 26.

No. 60.
18 June 1858,
Enclosure.

Enclosure in No. 3.

Encl. in No. 3.

Sir,

St. Lucia, 18 June 1858.

ON the 16th instant I laid before the Executive Council your Excellency's Despatch of the 10th May, No. 237, on the subject of immigration, and I particularly directed the attention of the Board to the suggestion of the Emigration Commissioners, that if Indian labourers were found unwilling to emigrate to St. Lucia, on the terms stated in my Despatch of the 17th October 1857, they might be induced to do so by some bonus paid to them in hand, or by some reasonable reduction of the period after which a free return passage would be given to them.

2. On the first point the Council said, that on the 8th September 1857, the Legislature of St. Lucia had passed a resolution, authorising the Emigration Agent in India "to give a bonus to each adult coolie of five rupees by way of free gift, and an advance not exceeding ten rupees, to be repaid out of his wages." As the Council expressed their surprise that the Emigration Commissioners had not been made aware of that resolution, I informed them, that in a Despatch dated the 10th of the said month of September, No. 86, I had transmitted the resolution in question to your Excellency, and that I had subsequently received intimation that it had been approved of by the Secretary of State. The Council said that that resolution had been adopted at the suggestion of Her Majesty's Government, and that they considered the bonus offered quite sufficient.

3. On the question of shortening the period after which a free return passage should be given to the immigrants, the Council recommended that the period should be reduced to eight years, if the immigrants objected to remain for ten years.

4. The Council expressed their great regret that no immigrants had been sent to this Colony for the last eight years; while the Colony of Grenada, without offering higher wages

ST. LUCIA.

or greater advantages than St. Lucia, had received two ships with immigrants in 1857, and one ship since the beginning of 1858.

His Excellency Francis Hincks, Esq.
Governor in Chief.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Henry H. Breen*,
Administrator of the Government.

— No. 4. —

(No. 42.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Hincks* to the Right Honourable
Sir *E. B. Lytton*, Bart.

Windward Islands, Barbadoes, 24 July 1858.

(Received, 16 August 1858.)

No. 4.
Governor Hincks
to the Right Hon.
Sir E. B. Lytton,
Bart.
24 July 1858.

• Vide Appendix,
No. 3 of Part I.

No. 77.
19 July 1858,
Enclosure.

Sir,

(Answered, No. 13, 4 September 1858 p. 28.)

WITH reference to Lord Stanley's circular Despatch of the 4th ultimo,* on the subject of the agency to be employed in future for collecting emigrants in India for the West Indies, I have the honour to transmit to you the copy of a Despatch from Mr. Breen, together with an extract from the minutes of the Executive Council of St. Lucia, whose advice I had instructed him to require.

2. I entirely concur with Mr. Breen and the Executive Council of St. Lucia, as to the inexpediency of even two or three of the smaller Colonies involving themselves in the expense of establishing agencies in India. A single cargo in the year would probably be all that these Colonies could conveniently receive, and I venture to solicit that Mr. Caird should be instructed to continue to afford his services to the smaller Colonies, on the terms on which he has hitherto rendered them.

3. When relieved from the pressure of the Colonies seeking large numbers of immigrants, Mr. Caird will have little difficulty in despatching a vessel annually to each of the smaller Colonies.

4. If the proposed scheme should be successful, Mauritius would be likely to receive a larger number of immigrants than heretofore, as I observe that the division of seasons is no longer to be kept up. I can hardly suppose, therefore, that any objection would be made by that Colony to the very limited demand on Mr. Caird's time and attention, which would be made by the smaller West India Colonies.

5. I have little doubt that Grenada will take the same view of the question as St. Lucia has done; but even if that Colony should be prepared to co-operate with others, it would be unadvisable for it to appoint a separate agent, to procure a single cargo annually.

6. I have thought it advisable not to lose any time in communicating to you my views on this subject, as, in the event of their not meeting your approbation, I must consider whether any other plan can be struck out. In that case I should be very glad to learn from the Emigration Commissioners what, in their opinion, would be the probable expense of an Indian agency for procuring emigrants.

I have, &c.
(signed) *F. Hincks*.

Encl. in No. 4.

Enclosure in No. 4.

(No. 77.)

Sir,

St. Lucia, 19 July 1858.

HAVING laid before the Executive Council, at its meeting of the 16th instant, your Excellency's Despatch of the 12th July, No. 262, in reference to the agency to be employed for collecting emigrants in India for the West Indies, I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency extract of the proceedings of the Board, containing the resolution adopted by them on this important question.

Sub-Enclosure.

2. I have

2. I have to add that I entirely concur in the views expressed by the Executive Council, which I also find to be entertained by all those whom I have had an opportunity of consulting on the subject.

ST. LUCIA.

His Excellency Francis Hincks, Esq.
Governor in Chief.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Henry H. Breen*,
Administrator of the Government.

Sub-Enclosure to Enclosure in No. 4.

EXTRACT from the Minutes of the Proceedings of a Meeting of the Executive Council, held in the Council Chamber, *Castries*, on Friday the 16th day of July 1858.

Present:—Henry H. Breen, Esq., Administrator of the Government, the Honourable Ls. La Caze, the Honourable R. G. M'Hugh, the Honourable James Macfarlane, the Honourable John Goodman, the Honourable A. Cools.

THE Administrator of the Government said, the next matter he had to lay before the Board was a Despatch from his Excellency the Governor in Chief in reference to the agency to be employed for collecting emigrants in India for the West Indies, and conveying the opinion of the Secretary of State, that it will be better that the services of the existing Agents should hereafter be confined to the Mauritius; and that the West India Colonies should have distinct agencies of their own. The Administrator remarked, that the question was one of great importance, involving nothing less than the fate of coolie immigration to St. Lucia, and he invited the Council to give it all due consideration.

Despatch, No. 262 of the 12th July, was then read.

The Council expressed their opinion, that St. Lucia was not in a condition to compete with Demerara and Trinidad, either in regard to wages or to the means of establishing agencies for the collection of coolie emigrants. They resolved, accordingly, that the proposal to employ a separate Agent in India, either on account of the Colony or by combining with some other island, could not be entertained, inasmuch as the expense of such an arrangement would not be productive of any corresponding benefit to St. Lucia.

(True extract.)
(signed)

Geo. M. M'Leod, Chief Clerk.

— No. 5. —

(No. 54.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Hincks* to the Right Honourable Sir *E. B. Lytton*, Bart.

No. 5.
Governor *Hincks*
to the Right hon.
Sir *E. B. Lytton*,
Bart.
8 September 1858.

Windward Islands, Barbados,
8 September 1858.

(Received, 2 October 1858.)

Sir,

WITH reference to your Despatch of the 29th July,* enclosing letters from the Emigration Commissioners and from the Acting Emigration Agent at Calcutta, I have the honour to refer you to my Despatch of the 10th July,† transmitting a copy of a Despatch from Mr. Breen, in which you will find the views of the Council of St. Lucia on the subject. I am decidedly of opinion that it would be inexpedient to reduce the term of industrial residence below eight years, but I am bound to add that the feeling among the planters in favour of obtaining an additional supply of labour is so strong, that they would readily agree to the proposal of the Emigration Agent, if no better terms could be obtained. It seems probable that the effect of the new arrangement under which the larger Colonies will have separate Agents will be to enable the Agent for Mauritius to supply without difficulty the very limited demand for labourers which will be made by Grenada and St. Lucia.

* *Vide* page 26.

† *Vide* page 21.

I shall defer for the present proposing an amendment of the law with regard to residence, but I have to report that the Council of St. Lucia are prepared to

ST. LUCIA. — agree to a term of residence of either seven or eight years, as may be found expedient, giving of course the preference to the latter term.

I have, &c.
(signed) *F. Hincks.*

— No. 6. —

(No. 57.)

No. 6.
Governor Hincks
to the Right Hon.
Sir E. B. Lytton,
Bart.
10 Sept. 1858.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Hincks* to the Right Honourable
Sir *E. B. Lytton*, Bart.

Windward Islands, Barbados,
10 September 1858.
(Received, 2 October 1858.)

(Answered, No. 28, 3 November 1858, p. 30.)

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the copy of a Despatch from Mr. Breen, covering an authenticated transcript of an Ordinance, intituled "An Ordinance to amend the Ordinance No. 7, of the 2d May 1850, intituled 'An Ordinance for promoting African Immigration into the Colony of St. Lucia, and industry of the Immigrants,'" together with the usual Reports of the Colonial Secretary and Attorney General. This Ordinance having been passed in accordance with the instructions contained in Mr. Secretary Labouchere's Despatch of the 25th February 1858,† requires no further explanation on my part.

I have, &c.
(signed) *F. Hincks.*

Encl. in No. 6.

Enclosure in No. 6.

(No. 84.)

Sir,

St. Lucia, 2 August 1858.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency duplicate copies of an Ordinance passed by the Legislative Council on the 21st July last, to amend the Ordinance No. 7, of the 2d May 1850, intituled "An Ordinance for promoting African Immigration into the Colony of St. Lucia, and the Industry of the Immigrants."

2. The object of this Ordinance is to give effect to the instructions conveyed in a Despatch from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State, dated Downing-street, 26 February 1858, in reference to the contracts to be entered into with any liberated Africans who may be sent to St. Lucia.

His Excellency Francis Hincks, Esq.,
Governor in Chief,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Henry H. Breen*,
Administrator of the Government.

Despatches from the Secretary of State.

— No. 1. —

(No. 66.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable *H. Labouchere*, M.P.
to Governor *Hincks*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 31 August 1857.

I TRANSMIT to you, for your information and guidance, the copy of a letter from the India Board, with the copy of one from the Chairman of the Emigration Commission, relative to the remittance to India of the property of coolie labourers who may die in the West Indies, and of the earnings which they may wish to send to their friends in India.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. Labouchere*.

No. 1.
Right Hon. H.
Labouchere, M.P.
to Governor
Hincks.
31 August 1857.

India Board,
13 July 1857.
Vide page 114 of
Part I.

Emigration Board,
24 July 1857.
Vide page 114 of
Part I.

— No. 2. —

(No. 80.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable *H. Labouchere*, M.P.
to Governor *Hincks*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 7 November 1857.

I HAVE received your Despatch, St. Lucia, No. 45,* of 23d September last, together with a series of Resolutions adopted by the Legislative Council of that island, on various points connected with coolie immigration.

I have to convey to you my approval of these Resolutions.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. Labouchere*.

No. 2.
Right Hon. H.
Labouchere, M.P.
to Governor
Hincks.
7 November 1857.
• Page 1.

— No. 3. —

(No. 102.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable *H. Labouchere*, M.P.
to Governor *Hincks*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 25 February 1858.

HAVING observed that a large number of liberated Africans have been taken into Sierra Leone, and located among the resident population, I instructed the Emigration Commissioners to take steps for facilitating the conveyance to the West Indies of such Africans as may hereafter reach that port under similar circumstances. I enclose the copy of an agreement which they have accordingly concluded with Messrs. Hyde, Hodge & Co. I have instructed the Governor of Sierra Leone to use his best endeavours to fill the ships furnished under this agreement with such captured Africans as may consent to emigrate. It is of course impossible to predict the continuance of these captures, or the degree to which the Africans may avail themselves of the opportunity offered them; but I think it desirable to inform you of the steps which I have taken to secure as far as possible to the West Indies the benefits derivable from the operations of Her Majesty's cruisers.

I have also authorised the Governor to place on board of any ship proceeding to St. Lucia such of the resident population (being labourers under the age of 40, and their families) as may be willing to proceed thither. For these persons (as under the previous agreement with Messrs. Hyde, Hodge & Co.), the Colony

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will

No. 3.
Right Hon. H.
Labouchere, M.P.
to Governor
Hincks.
25 February 1858.

Vide page 139 of
Part I.

ST. LUCIA.

will have to pay 5 l. per adult as freight (Article 16), and a fee of a dollar to the emigration agent in Sierra Leone.

I have instructed the Governor of Sierra Leone to explain to the emigrants of both classes (as far as possible) that they must be prepared on their arrival to enter into contracts of service to last for three years, or (in the case of children) till the age of 18. Of course, however, it will not be competent to the Government to impose or sanction such contracts, except in pursuance of some law which is in force in the Colony on the arrival of the immigrants. I draw your attention to this point, in order that the Legislature may make such provision, in accordance with the above instructions, as they may consider to be under the existing circumstances required.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. Labouchere.*

*Vide Parl. Paper.
No. 603 of 1850.*

P. S.—You will find in the accompanying Parliamentary Paper the former Instruction to the Emigration Agent at Sierra Leone, and various documents throwing light on this service.

— No. 4. —

No. 4.
Right Hon. Lord
Stanley, M.P., to
Governor Hincks.
27 April 1858.

(No. 8.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Lord *Stanley*, M. P.
to Governor *Hincks*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 27 April 1858.

I HAVE to request that you will forward, for the consideration of the Officer administering the Government of St. Lucia, copies of the 45th, 46th, and 47th paragraphs of the Land Board Letter enclosed in my Despatch, Barbadoes, No. 8, of the 16th instant.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Stanley.*

— No. 5. —

No. 5.
Right Hon.
Sir E. B. Lytton,
Bart. M.P. to
Governor Hincks.
29 July 1858.

(No. 8.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable Sir *E. B. Lytton*, Bart. M. P.
to Governor *Hincks*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 29 July 1858.

WITH reference to my predecessor's Despatch of the 27th April, St. Lucia, No. 8*, I transmit to you a copy of a letter from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, with copy of one from the Acting Emigration Agent at Calcutta, in which he suggests that a reduction of the period of residence of the coolies to be sent to that island from 10 to 7 years would be the most effectual inducement that could be offered to the coolies to proceed there.

I request that you will ascertain whether the Council of St. Lucia are prepared to acquiesce in their proposed reduction, and inform me accordingly.

I have, &c.
(signed) *E. B. Lytton.*

* Above.
28 July 1858.
Enclosure.

Enclosure in No. 5.

ST. LUCIA.

Encl. in No. 5.

Sir,

Emigration Office, 28 July 1858.

With reference to the report from this Board of 15 March last, paragraph 46, I have the honour to enclose, for Sir E. Bulwer Lytton's information, the copy of a letter from the Acting Emigration Agent at Calcutta, on the subject of the advantages to be held out to emigrants to induce them to proceed to St. Lucia and Grenada.

No. 27, 4 June.
Sub-Enclosure.

2. Mr. Eales, it will be seen, considers that a reduction of the period of residence from 10 to 7 years would be the most effectual inducement that could be offered. I would submit that a copy of his letter should be forwarded to those Colonies, in order that it may be ascertained whether they would be prepared to acquiesce in the proposed reduction of the term of residence, with a view to set the emigration on foot. To Grenada I presume that no emigrants will be sent during the approaching season, unless funds shall be specially provided for the purpose by the Colonial Legislature; but the Emigration Agent will be directed to endeavour to despatch a ship to St. Lucia, although until an answer is received from that Colony he will not be authorised to make any reduction in the term of residence.

Herman Merivale, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) T. W. C. Murdoch.

Sub-Enclosure in Enclosure No. 5.

(No. 27 of 1858.)

Emigration Agent's Office, Calcutta,
4 June 1858.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of 26th April, accompanied by sundry extracts of letters from the Governors of St. Lucia and Grenada, on the subject of remuneration to coolie labourers employed on those islands;

I have the honour to state, that, after a careful perusal of the information furnished in these documents, it would appear that the impression prevailing in India as regards the actual return for labour is based on an erroneous hypothesis: even admitting that the rate of money wages are considerably below those obtainable in the larger West India Colonies, the "provision grounds," and cheapness of living alluded to, may be considered as an equivalent, which would tend to equalise the scale of remuneration to that of the other West India Colonies.

To encourage, however, emigration to the Windward Islands, and in particular to St. Lucia, which is yet wholly unknown to the Indian emigrants, I would strongly urge the expediency of the Government holding out some greater inducement to intending emigrants, the effect of which would make emigration to these islands equally popular with the larger and better known of the West Indian Colonies.

There are many scruples inherent in the Asiatic mind which render them peculiarly averse to quitting their native homesteads, except for matters of personal aggrandisement, and they naturally demur to proceed to a Colony where the profit to be reaped is apparently less than at others.

In explaining the advantages held out to them, and conditions of emigration generally on their entering the depôt, it is a matter not easy of accomplishment to impress on them the belief that one Colony giving a nominally lower return in actual salary, with other advantages, was fairly equal to other Colonies who give a higher rate of pay with curtailed privileges. With this view, I would with respect suggest, that all parties who could be prevailed on to proceed to either St. Lucia or Grenada, should have the term of their industrial residence reduced from 10 to 7 years, with a free return passage at the expiration of that period, until personal experience amongst the labourers themselves gave indubitable proof of labour being equally profitable in all the West Indian Colonies alike.

This measure would, I humbly conceive, have the desired effect, and would remove the present difficulty, without involving a general increase to the rate of wages in St. Lucia and Grenada.

The alternative of advancing small sums of money by way of bonus, as recommended, would thus be avoided, as being one attended with serious evil.

S. Walcott, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) C. Eales,
Officiating Emigration Agent.

ST. LUCIA.

— No. 6. —

No. 6.

Right Hon.
Sir E. B. Lytton,
Bart. M. P. to
Governor Hincks.
4 Sept. 1858.

(No. 13.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart. M. P.
to Governor Hincks.

Sir,

Downing-street, 4 September 1858.

• Page 22.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 24th July, St. Lucia, No. 42,* and I have to acquaint you, in reply, that Mr. Eales, the Acting Emigration Agent at Calcutta, has been instructed to continue his services in that capacity on behalf of St. Lucia.

I have, &c.

(signed) E. B. Lytton.

— No. 7. —

No. 7.

Right Hon.
Sir E. B. Lytton,
Bart. M. P. to
Governor Hincks.
4 Sept. 1858.

(No. 14.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart. M. P.
to Governor Hincks.

Sir,

Downing-street, 4 September 1858.

• Page 21.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 10th July, St. Lucia, No. 37, with copy of one from the Officer administering the Government of that island, in which it is stated that the Council had expressed their regret that no immigrants had been sent to St. Lucia.

I transmit to you, for your information, and for communication to the Council of St. Lucia, a copy of a letter addressed, by my desire, to the Commissioner for the Affairs of India on the subject.

I have authorised the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners to instruct the Agent in India to despatch, if possible, two ships with coolie immigrants to St. Lucia as soon as the consent of the Indian Government shall have been obtained.

I have, &c.

(signed) E. B. Lytton.

Enclosure in No. 7.

Encl. in No. 7.

Sir,

Downing-street, 31 August 1858.

I AM directed by Sir E. B. Lytton to transmit to you, with reference to my letters of the 7th July and the 22d September of last year, an extract from a letter from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, on a complaint made by the Colony of St. Lucia that they had not yet received any coolie immigrants.

I am to request that you will call the attention of the Commissioner for the Affairs of India to the statement made in the letter of the 17th June last from the Acting Emigration Agent in Calcutta (of which a copy accompanies the extract from the Emigration Commissioner), that the Governor General in Council was of opinion that the regulations made by St. Lucia were not sufficient, and that a further reference had accordingly been made to the home authorities on the subject.

Sir E. Lytton very much regrets the delay that has occurred in complying with the wishes of the proprietors in St. Lucia for a supply of coolie labour, and he would be glad to be informed whether any communication has been received from the Governor General on the subject, in order that it may be ascertained in what respects the St. Lucia Ordinance has been considered insufficient for insuring all that has hitherto been required by the Government of India for the welfare of the immigrants.

Sir E. Lytton would request that, in the event of no such communication having been received, a Despatch may be addressed to the Governor General of India in Council by the next mail, calling attention to the Despatch addressed to his Lordship by the Court of

Directors

Ext. 24 Aug. 1858.
Enclosure.

31 August 1858.
Enclosure.

Directors in July of last year, and to the Ordinance passed by the Council of St. Lucia, which was forwarded to you in my letter of the 22d September last (a copy of which was no doubt forwarded to the Governor General), and Sir E. Lytton has to express his hope that the restriction imposed upon emigration to St. Lucia will be at once removed, and authority given to the Emigration Agent to despatch the required number of emigrants to that Colony without delay.

I am to add, that the Agent at Calcutta will be authorised to send two ships to St. Lucia, on obtaining the necessary powers to enable him to do so.

Sir G. R. Clerk, K. C. B.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. Merivale.*

ST. LUCIA.

Sub-Enclosure.

(EXTRACT.)

THE Council of St. Lucia complain that they have not yet received any coolie immigrants, while Grenada has received * two ship loads. This complaint is not ill-founded. As long ago as April 1854, the Legislature of St. Lucia passed an Ordinance containing all the provisions respecting this immigration, which they supposed, or had reason to suppose, were required by Government. This was communicated (after some delay) to the Indian Government, who declared that the Ordinance was (though copied from an approved model) open to various objections, and declined to sanction the immigration till they were removed. The specific objections were communicated to us on the 8th of December 1856; and in our report of the 14th of January 1857, we endeavoured to show (and I believe satisfied the Secretary of State) that they were founded on a series of oversights or misapprehensions. We recommended, however, that an Ordinance should be passed to remove them. This was immediately done, and the amending Ordinance (No. 2 of 1857) was, I believe, communicated to the Indian Government in the autumn of last year. But I perceive from a letter of the Emigration Agent at Calcutta (of which I enclose a copy), that on the 17th of June last no enactment had been passed in India to legalise emigration to St. Lucia

17 June 1858.

I would suggest that the India Board should be requested to draw the attention of the Indian Government to the above Ordinance, in order that St. Lucia may be enabled, if possible, to share in the coolie emigration of the ensuing season.

The Governor of the Windward Islands suggests, that under these circumstances, a second ship should be sent to St. Lucia during the current season, to make up for the deficiency. On this point I have to request Sir E. Bulwer Lytton's instructions. If, as I apprehend to be the case, 15,000 *l.* of the guarantee loan remains to be raised, I am aware of no objection to the proposal; provided of course the emigration is authorised by the Indian Government, and provided a fairly reasonable number is first sent to the larger Colonies, say three ships each to British Guiana and Trinidad, and (if emigration is resumed to that Colony) to Jamaica.

Sir,

Emigration Agent's Office,
Calcutta, 17 June 1858.

In my letter to your address of the 4th instant, respecting emigration to Grenada and St. Lucia, I omitted to mention the circumstance of the absence of a legal enactment authorising emigration to the latter Colony.

Mr. Caird, I find, previously brought this to notice in para. 3 of his letter to you, dated 20th November 1857; and I have also obtained copy of a letter from the Protector's office from the Supreme Government of India to that of Bengal, of 12th September 1856, wherein the Governor General records his opinion in the following extract:

"With regard to St. Lucia the Governor General in Council is of opinion that the regulations provided and the measures taken are not sufficient for the proper attainment of these objects, and accordingly a further reference has been made to the home authorities in respect to the emigration of Indian labourers to that Colony."

To S. Walcott, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *C. Eales,*
Officiating Emigration Agent.

* Erroneously stated as three in Mr. Breen's Despatch.

ST. LUCIA.

— No. 8. —

(No. 28.)

No. 8.

Right Hon.
Sir E. B. Lytton,
Bart. M. P. to
Governor Hincks.
3 Nov. 1858.

* Page 24.

† No. 5 of 1858.
Vide Appendix,
No. 3, p. 299.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart. M. P.
to Governor Hincks.

Sir,

Downing-street, 3 November 1858.

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 57,* of the 10th ultimo, and I have to convey to you Her Majesty's confirmation and allowance of the Ordinance passed by the Legislature of St. Lucia, entitled, "An Ordinance to amend the Ordinance, No. 7, of the 2d May 1850, entitled, 'An Ordinance for promoting African Immigration into the Colony of St. Lucia, and the Industry of the Immigrants.'"†

I have, &c.

(signed) E. B. Lytton.

— No. 9. —

(No. 41.)

No. 9.

Right Hon.
Sir E. B. Lytton,
Bart. M. P. to
Governor Hincks.
12 January 1859.

Encl. No. 1.

Encl. No. 2.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart. M. P.
to Governor Hincks.

Sir,

Downing-street, 12 January 1859.

I TRANSMIT to you for your information, and for communication to the Officer administering the Government of St. Lucia, copies of two letters from the Acting Emigration Agent at Calcutta, reporting that he had chartered the ship "Palmyra" for the conveyance of coolies to that island.

I have, &c.

(signed) E. B. Lytton.

Encl. 1, in No. 9.

Enclosure 1, in No. 9.

Sir,

Emigration Agent's Office,
Calcutta, 20 November 1858.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of Her Majesty's Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, having taken up the ship "Palmyra," at 9*l*. for each adult, for the conveyance of coolies to St. Lucia, and that I hope to despatch her in all January next.

S. Walcott, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.

(signed) C. Eales,
Officiating Emigration Agent.

Encl. 2, in No. 9.

Enclosure 2, in No. 9.

Sir,

Emigration Agent's Office,
Calcutta, 22 November 1858.

REFERRING to your previous letters on the subject of the introduction of Indian labourers to St. Lucia during the current season, I have now the honour to inform you that an Act authorising the same was passed by the Indian Legislative Council on the 3d instant; measures have therefore been taken to collect a shipload of people for that Colony in this Presidency with all practicable despatch. The Madras Agent has also been requested to supply, if possible, the remaining portion demanded on this account.

Relative to the recent Instructions conveyed in your communication of 24th September anent the resumption of emigration to Jamaica, I desire to observe that I have submitted copies of this document, and the Despatch which accompanied it, for the consideration and orders of the Indian Government, whose reply I hope shortly to be enabled to furnish you with for the information of the Commissioners.

S. Walcott, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.

(signed) C. Eales,
Officiating Emigration Agent.

BARBADOS.

Despatches from the Governor.

— No. 1. —

(No. 42.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Hincks* to the Right Honourable
H. Labouchere, M. P.

Windward Islands,
Barbados, 22 August 1857.
(Received, 14 September 1857.)

BARBADOS.

No. 1.
Governor *Hincks*
to Right Hon. H.
Labouchere, M. P.,
22 August 1857.

Sir,

(Answered, No. 86, 22 October 1858, p. 54.)

I HAVE hitherto refrained from communicating to you the opinions which I have formed on the West India labour question, and on the system of coolie immigration which is intimately connected with it.

2. On my assumption of this Government, I found that measures for promoting immigration to Grenada and St. Lucia had been assented to by Her Majesty's Government. It seemed, moreover, to be the general opinion in the West India Colonies, with the exception of Barbados, that coolie immigration was most desirable, and this opinion having been concurred in not only by successive Governors but by Her Majesty's Government, I could take no other course but that of carrying out the law.

3. The time has arrived when it will be no longer possible for me to avoid the responsibility of declaring my opinions on this important subject. The Legislature of St. Vincent is prepared to encourage immigration at the public expense; and the question of the rate of wages to the coolies in the several Colonies has been raised in your Despatch of 12th June last; * and I have no doubt that, under the stimulus of the present high price of sugar, there will be an active competition between the several Colonies for all available labour; the result of which will be, that such labour will be diverted to those Colonies where large tracts of virgin soil can be easily obtained.

* *Vide Papers presented August 1857, p. 354.*

4. It seems to me that the encouragement of coolie immigration involves a very large amount of responsibility. I have no means of judging how far a constant and increasing supply of these labourers can be relied on, but I know that, if by any accident it should fail, the West India planters in those Colonies, which are placing their chief reliance on it, will be subjected to greater distress than they will have ever before experienced.

5. I am opposed to coolie immigration on many grounds. I believe the moral effect of it to be most prejudicial, operating as it does to discourage the abolition of slavery. It is indeed looked upon as a system of mitigated slavery in foreign countries, but especially in the United States of America. Its necessity is justified on the grounds that slave labour is cheaper than free, and that the emancipated negroes are unwilling to work. The West India interest has not ceased, since the passing of the Emancipation Act, to affirm these propositions, and the coolie immigration system appears to me to stamp them with the sanction of Her Majesty's Government and of the British nation.

6. I am of opinion that nothing short of a much more urgent necessity than has yet been proved to exist could justify the introduction into the British West Indies of a race so different in every respect from the Africans. I entertain no

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doubt that these immigrants are viewed by the creoles with jealousy and hatred, and that in those communities where the two races have been brought together, a Government, aided by military power, will alone be adequate to maintain order. I confess that I look with alarm on the introduction of such elements of discord into those Colonies, from which Her Majesty's troops have been entirely withdrawn.

7. I think that the tendency of immigration is to divert still more the creole labourer from the cultivation of the great staple product of the West Indies, the sugar-cane. If it could have been fairly proved to the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government, that certain West Indian planters were unable to obtain free labour to cultivate estates, established during slavery, I think that expediency might have justified a compliance with their demand for immigrants. That, however, is not the present question: new capital is being invested in bringing additional land into cultivation, the price of sugar estates is going up to the old exaggerated and fictitious slavery value, and stimulated by profits, larger than any other branch of industry is yielding, the Colonies are embarking in a reckless expenditure, with a view of increasing exports at any sacrifice.

8. Coolie immigration is conducted, and necessarily so, on a most expensive system. This, however, does not, as it ought to do, operate as a check. The expense has in some cases been thrown, not upon those profiting by the labour, but, as I think most unadvisedly, on the entire population. This has been one, and not the least important, cause of the dissatisfaction of the creoles. The Colonies which have adopted this system are overwhelmed with debt. The demand is increasing more rapidly than the supply, and I fear that the future consequences will be most disastrous.

9. I entertain yet another objection, but one which I shall merely indicate, as it is at present under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government; I allude to the mortality which has recently occurred on board the immigrant ships from Calcutta, and which I learn amounted to 17·6 per cent. of the number of coolies which embarked, and to which must be added those who died after landing. This has been so serious as to induce the Emigration Department to declare that, "unless the causes of the mortality can be discovered and prevented, it would be impossible for Her Majesty's Government and the Government of India to allow the continuance of an emigration attended with such disastrous results."

10. I fear that I cannot communicate to you the views which I entertain on the labour question of the West Indies, without entering at some length into the history of the past, but if my remarks should be considered tedious, I venture to hope that the importance of the subject, and the magnitude of the interests involved, will be considered a sufficient excuse. I propose then to consider, in the first place, the question, whether the allegation of the West India planters, that sugar can be produced cheaper by slave than by free labour, is true.

11. The West India interests have on several occasions appealed to Parliament to relieve their distresses; I admit not only the existence of such distresses, but the claim of the sufferers to a large amount of sympathy, but I cannot allow that the cause of the depression of that interest has been at all times fairly stated.

12. It is not my intention to consider the complaints made on behalf of the West India interests during the existence of the slave trade, though they were as numerous during that period as they have been since, but I shall advert to the Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons in 1832, when slavery was in full operation.

13. The Select Committee declared on that occasion, that it had received abundant evidence of the distress which had existed for 10 or 12 years greatly aggravated within three or four. The causes of this distress were stated to be commercial restrictions, the acquisition of new sugar Colonies at the Peace of 1814, and the abolition of the slave trade, unaccompanied by its abolition on the part of foreign States, owing to which the cost of slaves was materially raised. I advert to the evidence given on that occasion, simply because it was

proved

proved by gentlemen in the confidence of the West India interests, some of them planters, that the average cost of producing one cwt. of sugar in the West Indies, without any charge for interest of capital, was - £. - 15 8
Freight and other expenses in bringing it to market - - - 8 6

per cwt. - - -	1	4	2
or on a hogshead of 15 cwt. - - - £.	18	2	6

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14. At that time the object of the West India interests was to prove that sugar was produced in the British Colonies at a much higher cost than in the Foreign Colonies; but in 1842, which was likewise a period of great West India distress, a Select Committee of the House of Commons was again instructed to inquire and report as to the cause. The object then was to prove, that whereas sugar had been produced very cheaply by slave labour, the cost was so great under free labour, that it was impossible to compete with the slave labour of Cuba; and that, moreover, it had been found impossible to obtain continuous labour from the emancipated negroes. I shall not advert here to the remedy suggested by the Committee, which was immigration. My present object is to call your attention to the statements made by the witnesses on behalf of the planters, as to the cost of producing sugar during the periods of slavery and freedom.

15. A number of witnesses of the highest respectability were examined by the Committee, and very precise statements were given of the comparative cost. In page 186, and in answer to question 2522, it is stated by Mr. Barkly, that the average cost of production during slavery was 6 s. 8 d. per cwt., and during freedom 2 l. 0 s. 3 d. Again, Mr. Mungo Campbell, in his answer to question No. 2090, page 154 to 156, gives certain details of expenditure on three sugar estates in British Guiana during slavery, the average cost having been on one 9 s. 6 d., another 5 s. 4 d., and another 3 s. 2 d., it having been one year 2 s. 8 d. per cwt., or 2 l. a hogshead.

16. I might ask you to compare these statements with those authorised by the West India Committee in 1832, or with the evidence of Mr. Peter Rose, of Demerara, in answer to question 1475, page 184, of the Report of 1832; but I prefer adopting a different mode of examination into the correctness of these statements. I may however observe, that the same allegations as to the cost of producing sugar during slavery were made by witnesses before the Select Committee of 1848, and also in the Papers laid before Parliament by Her Majesty's command in that year, and which contained statements made to the several West India Governors by the resident planters.

17. I proceed to consider the statement made by Mr. Mungo Campbell, to which I have already adverted. The return shows that in 1830, 1831, 1832, 250 slaves on Endeavour Estate produced, on an average, 290 hogsheads of sugar, at a cost of 11 l. 3 s. per hogshead, or, deducting 4 l. 8 s., the value of the rum and molasses, 6 l. 15 s. per hogshead, or 9 s. 6 d. per cwt. In 1839, 1840, 1841, the cost of supplies on the same estate, not taking labour into account at all, was 14 l. 10 s. per hogshead, and adding labour, 18 l. 17 s. 7 d., and deducting 10 l. 19 s. 6 d., as the value of rum and molasses, the entire cost was 22 l. 8 s. 1 d., or 1 l. 11 s. 1 d. per cwt. It would thus appear that the supplies, exclusive of labour, were much greater when the planter was relieved of the heavy cost of supplying food and clothing for his labourers, and which formed the principal item of expense on a sugar estate during slavery.

18. There is no information given as to the quantity of land under cane cultivation in the comparative years. If the same acreage was under canes, the deficiency in the crop could not be ascribed to want of labour; on the other hand, if the extent of cane land had been reduced, the expenses ought to have been proportionately diminished. It is impossible to arrive at any satisfactory conclusion as to the comparative cost of cultivation, without having the quantity of land under cultivation given in, and likewise the details of the heavy sums charged under the general head of supplies.

19. I can, however, have no hesitation in affirming, that all the statements that I have seen in the reports of 1842, disclose a most wasteful system of management, sufficient of itself to cause the ruin of all concerned.

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20. I have obtained the most reliable information as to the cost of producing sugar in this island, and I can assure you that I have not the slightest doubt whatever that free labour here is more economical than slave. I shall place before you the comparative cost of an estate in Barbados, containing 300 acres of land, during slavery and at the present time. During slavery this estate produced not exceeding 150 hogsheads of sugar, weighing certainly not over 1,600 lbs., or 240,000 lbs.; there were 230 slaves, worth on an average 50 *l.* each, or 11,500 *l.*, which,

At 6 per cent. interest, would be	- - -	£.
Cost of clothing, food, and medical attendance,		690
which I estimate at an average, which I consider		
very low, of 3 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> each	- - -	805
Cost of Labour	- - - £.	1,495

or, 10 *l.* 12 *s.* per hogshead of 1,700 lbs.

The same estate is now worked by 90 labourers, 60 adults, and 30 under 16 years of age. It has averaged for the last seven years 194 hogsheads, and the total cost of labour is 770 *l.* 16 *s.* or for each hogshead of 1,700 lbs., 3 *l.* 19 *s.* 2 *d.* The average of pounds of sugar was for each labourer during slavery 1,043 lbs., during free labour 3,664 lbs.

There are now in cane cultivation 220 acres; whereas in time of slavery a considerable portion of the land was taken up in raising provisions for a large slave population. Finally, the value of this estate was estimated during slavery at 15,000 *l.* for the land, which was 50 *l.* per acre, and 11,500 *l.* for the slaves. After receiving the compensation money, it was sold during apprenticeship at 25,000 *l.*, and purchased some years ago by the present proprietor for 30,000 *l.* This gentleman, who is of the highest reputation, has more than once assured me that the abolition of slavery had been a great boon conferred upon the planters of Barbados. I have shown that the cost of labour on this estate was about 4 *l.* per hogshead. According to statements, prepared under the authority of two agricultural societies in this island, the other charges ought not to exceed 36 dollars 72 cents, or 7 *l.* 13 *s.*, which would give a total cost of 11 *l.* 13 *s.*, or, deducting 23 dollars or 4 *l.* 15 *s.* 10 *d.* for rum and molasses, 6 *l.* 17 *s.* 2 *d.* per hogshead. Sugar has been netting this season about 30 *l.* per hogshead. It is an undeniable fact that the size and weight of the hogsheads have been materially increased of late. I believe 1,600 lbs. too large an average weight for 1830, and that 1,700 lbs. is less than the present average. I have, however, thought it best to understate my case.

21. It is generally alleged that the prosperity of Barbados is to be ascribed mainly to the cheapness of labour. But you will observe that there is a very wide margin between 3 *l.* 19 *s.* 2 *d.* and 10 *l.* 12 *s.* per hogshead, and that the Barbados planter has many disadvantages to contend with. The estates are small, and the expense of management necessarily high in proportion. There is not much ratooning, and the cost of manure and moulding is very heavy. Again, the value of land is enormously high, altogether too high, to justify its maintenance by legislative authority. If, then, labour is 50 per cent. higher in Guiana and Trinidad, Barbados could set off other items of expense to counter-balance the difference.

22. I ascribe the prosperity of Barbados to very different causes; the principal of which is the economical management of the estates, and the progress of agricultural science. I must not omit either to mention the judicious treatment of the labourers, which has prevented any extensive emigration to the Colonies where wages are much higher. The labourer in Barbados is compelled to work, as he can get no land without paying rent for it; but he is encouraged to grow the sugar-cane, and it is manufactured for him on most liberal terms.

23. I have, I trust, shown clearly that in the British West Indies sugar has been produced more cheaply by free labour than by slave. It may have been produced for less in Barbados than in some of the other Colonies; but there is abundant evidence in the Report of the Committee of 1832 to confirm the view which I have taken, and to show that in British Guiana the effective slave labour

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on an estate was only 30 to 33 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the total slave population, which had to be maintained at the expense of the proprietor.

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24. I have at present no satisfactory means of judging of the cost of slave labour in Cuba. The report from the British Consul at Havana, which is to be found in the volume of Papers laid before Parliament in 1848, though full of interesting information, is in some respects incomplete. To enable one to compare the cost of labour at different places, it is necessary to be made aware of the amount of work actually performed. I believe that in Cuba there is no system of rotation of crops. The land is cleared and prepared for cane, and, if I mistake not, planted, all which operations are charged against the capital or investment account. The canes are then ratooned for many years, not less than 15 or 20, and when the land has been exhausted, it is abandoned for a time.

24. I hope to have more precise information on these points, so as to enable me to judge accurately as to the cost of slave labour in Cuba. Meantime, two important facts are stated in Mr. Crawford's Despatch to Viscount Palmerston, dated Havana, 21st February 1848, page 1299 of the Papers laid before Parliament in 1848, relative to the distress in the sugar-growing colonies. Clothing and food for 200 slaves are estimated at 6,000 dollars, or 30 dollars each; this is exclusive of medical attendance and nursing; and it is further observed that there would be a proportion of females, children, and invalids, so that the actual cost of maintaining the able-bodied would nearly average the wages of a Barbados labourer.

25. Again, the charge for slave labour, when hired out, is 17 dollars per month, which, allowing 26 working days, would be 65 cents, or 2s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. sterling a day. No doubt the slave owner has a good profit on the hiring of this labour, but not more, I presume, than those engaged in other branches of business, if the maintenance of the stock be taken into account. If, then, a large amount of work is obtained from these unhappy beings, it is certainly paid for at a high price. The rate stated above is about double the highest wages given in the British West Indies, and more than three times that which rules in Barbados.

26. Having established, I trust satisfactorily, that there is no ground for the assertion that slave labour is more economical than free, I proceed to consider the allegation that the negro is unwilling to labour.

27. The proof offered in support of this proposition is the fact that a large amount of creole labour has been withdrawn from the cultivation of the sugar-cane; there is, however, in my opinion, no just ground for the charge of indolence; there must, in all cases, be an inducement to labour. In countries where land is cheap, and easily obtained, as in the United States and British North America, labour is always scarce and highly remunerated.

28. It cannot be expected that men will work at low wages for others, when they can obtain the means of support by working for themselves. After giving to the subject all the consideration in my power, I am of opinion that no sufficient inducements have been held out to the creole population to labour in any colony except Barbados; and here, where a judicious system was adopted, it has proved completely successful.

29. I cannot discover in the mass of evidence which has been published on this question any satisfactory elucidation of the labour system of the West Indies. There is a constant reference to the money rate of wages, and to the refusal of the creole to work continuously for what is called a sufficient rate. Now, it is notorious that in all the Colonies the same principle has been adopted of combining labour for hire with labour on the labourer's own account.

30. The latter employment has been everywhere the most profitable, and you will readily perceive that a labourer may be better off in one Colony with 10 d. a day wages, if possessed of certain privileges, than in another with double wages, if unaccompanied by similar advantages. A mere comparison of the current rates of wages will therefore be a very unsafe guide in considering this question.

31. I have already adverted, in paragraph 22, to the contingent advantages
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enjoyed in Barbados by the labourers. In the other Colonies the error was committed at the period of emancipation, of allowing the occupation of land, often without rent-charge of any kind, and squatting on Crown lands was likewise permitted. The most stringent measures should have been adopted to enforce the payment of rent at high rates, and to prevent squatting. A heavy weekly or monthly rent on Crown lands would have been sufficient, and would not have been objected to if the system had been enforced at the period of emancipation.

32 The other lands were in possession of the planters themselves, who could to some extent have fixed the charge for rent; but the great error has been that the negro was discouraged from labouring on his own account at the most profitable employment which he could have followed, the cultivation of the sugar-cane—an employment, too, which would have kept him under the influence of the capitalist, on whom he would have had to rely for the manufacture of his crop.

33. I wish it clearly to be understood that I do not refer to what is called the Metairie system, which is a sort of partnership between the agriculturist and the manufacturer. I should be sorry to see the cultivation of the cane abandoned by capitalists, who alone can bring it to perfection, but I deplore the diversion of labour from its most profitable employment. Had the planters encouraged their labourers to cultivate the cane on small allotments of from half an acre to two, according to the numbers in the families, and to their industry, I am persuaded that the estates would not have been abandoned, and that moderate wages would have prevailed.

34. The negro will work industriously for himself, and self-interest would soon have taught him that labour on a sugar estate, combined with the cultivation of the cane on his own account, would be more profitable than raising provision crops.

35. I may here notice what I consider a great fallacy as to the indolence of the creole labourer. Circumstances have in a manner forced him to employ himself in raising provisions. For this crop there is little or no export demand, and the local markets are adequately supplied. If, therefore, he employed more labour, it would probably be unremunerative, as an increased supply would reduce prices. Let the labourer have the stimulus of being able to sell his productions to an unlimited extent, and I should be much surprised indeed if he did not labour with as much industry as similar classes elsewhere.

36. My opinion then is, that creole labour has been diverted to a great extent from the sugar estates, owing to the adoption of an unwise policy. It would have been desirable that land should have been less easily obtainable, but at all events every effort should have been used to encourage the creole labourers to devote that spare time which was granted to them to the most profitable employment.

37. The tendency of immigration is to perpetuate this unwise policy. Temporary labour is displacing that which is permanent, and the creoles are abandoning more and more the sugar cultivation. There is an ample supply of creole labour in all the Colonies to bring up the exports to double what they were in the time of slavery. I have been told that on one estate in this island, the whole labourers' allotments on which do not exceed 20 acres, as many as 20 hogsheads of sugar have been made by these small lessees. This would give them a return of probably 450*l*.

38. I believe that in some of the Colonies the Metairie system is making considerable progress, and though not the best, it is much preferable either to the abandonment of sugar cultivation, or to its maintenance by the labour of coolie immigrants.

39. I am unaware whether any judicious attempt has yet been made to negotiate between the planting interest and the labourers. Such would at one time, I think, have been successful. The object would be to settle the terms on which the sugar cultivation could be advantageously prosecuted. Both parties would obviously be interested in the success of such a negotiation. Already tariffs of tasks have been adopted. They might be reconsidered, rates of wages might be fixed,

fixed, having reference to the Gazette price of sugar ; fair rents for land might be agreed upon, unconnected altogether with wages, and a charge for the manufacture of the sugar-cane might also be established.

40. Reasonable concessions on both sides might restore harmony, but coolie immigration is rapidly bringing about a state of feeling that will, I fear, lead to deplorable consequences. There are many whites also who enjoy the confidence of the creoles, and who believe them to be hardly dealt with. Prominent among them are the dissenting ministers in some colonies, and the Roman-catholic priests in others. These clergymen would be open to reason, and would, I have no doubt, exert a beneficial influence in restoring a good state of feeling. It strikes me that the object is at least sufficiently important to induce a consideration of the suggestion.

41. My design in this Despatch having been to communicate to you frankly my general views on this question, I shall abstain from discussing any details of the immigration system in force in the several Colonies, especially as I shall have occasion to notice them at an early period.

42. I may, however, observe that at a time of great prosperity, when the profits of sugar cultivation are perhaps greater than those obtainable in any other branch of business, it is a great temptation to the planter to have labourers imported for him at the expense of the community ; and it is to be feared that the language of Earl Grey, in his Despatch to Governor Sir William Gomm, might be applied to other Colonies as well as to Mauritius. Earl Grey remarked in that Despatch, "I cannot but infer, from the general tenor of their proceedings and complaints, that the sudden and extraordinary extension of their cultivation, by means of imported labourers, has produced in them what is, I fear, the usual effect of such rapid advancements—an eagerness for still more extensive operations, rather than a desire to place the advantages they have gained upon an assured and solid basis."

43. In considering the question of immigration, I deemed it expedient to endeavour to procure some statistical information that would enable me to judge of the real demand for labour within this Government ; and I caused a form of return to be prepared and printed, a copy of which I have the honour to transmit to you. You may possibly be of opinion that it would be desirable that such a return should be obtained from all the Sugar Colonies demanding immigration. It is one that the stipendiary magistrates could easily prepare. The form, showing the cost of cultivating a sugar estate, could be filled up by any two or three planters in a district.

44. I have also prepared some queries, with a view of ascertaining the cost of producing sugar in Louisiana, which I have the honour to transmit ; and if you think it expedient that such information should be procured, I would respectfully solicit you to cause an application to be made to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to obtain the answers through Her Majesty's Consul at New Orleans.

45. It is proper that I should explain, that although the foregoing observations may be considered, in some degree, applicable to the West India Colonies generally, yet I cannot pretend to any local knowledge beyond the limits of the Windward Islands.

46. My opinions have been formed from my knowledge of the requirements of those Colonies and of the current rates of wages there, and of the number of available labourers. I have felt it my duty frankly to lay them before you, so that when I have to deal with any practical question, you may be fully aware of the bias of my mind.

I have, &c.
(signed) J. Hincks.

BARBADOS.

Enclosure in No. 1.

Encl. in No. 1.

QUERIES to which Her Majesty's Consul at New Orleans is requested to procure answers with the view of ascertaining the cost of producing sugar in Louisiana on a well-arranged and economically conducted estate.

1. What is the size of the estate in acres ?
2. What is the number of acres in cane cultivation ?
3. Is the system of ratooning followed, and to what extent ?
4. How is the remaining portion of the land employed ; is any of it used for raising provision for the slaves ?
5. What is the number of the entire slave population on the estate ?
6. What is the number of effective labourers ?
7. What is the average per head of the slaves, and what the value of an able-bodied man ?
8. What is the cost of maintenance per head ?
9. What is the average produce per acre of canes in pounds of sugar, and what the present price of sugar ?
10. What is the produce of rum and molasses, and the price of those commodities ?
11. What is the value of buildings and machinery ?
12. What is the value of the stock and the average cost of maintaining it effective ?
13. What is the aggregate amount of salaries to managers, book-keepers, overseers, &c.
14. What is the cost of packages ?
15. What is the cost of skilled labour, such as that of copper-smiths, mill-wrights, &c.
16. What is the cost of slave-labour when hired out ?
17. Are there any other incidental charges ; if so, please state what they are, and the cost ?

— No. 2. —

(General.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Hincks* to the Right Honourable
H. Labouchere, M. P.

Windward Islands, Barbados, 9 Nov. 1857.

(Received, 3 Dec. 1857.)

Sir,

(Answered, No. 97, 26 Dec. 1857, page 55.)

I FIND in an official report of the proceedings of the Court of Policy of British Guiana an announcement by the Acting Attorney General of that Colony that a clause had been inserted in a Bill to amend the Immigration Ordinance "for the purpose of legalising contracts made with labourers in any of the British West Indian Colonies," and I consider it my duty to lose no time in advising you, that in my opinion, such a provision would be calculated to cause serious discontent among the planters in the several islands of this Government. There is no obstruction whatever in the way of emigration from these Colonies, and free passages may be provided by British Guiana for any persons wishing to resort to that Colony ; but it strikes me that if contracts made elsewhere, were legalised, and especially unless authenticated by some officer of the Crown in the place where the contract was made, there would be serious danger of imposition being practised upon the labouring classes by agents from other Colonies.

I have not thought it expedient to raise any discussion on this subject, which is not officially before me, either with the Executive Council or others, and I do not believe that public attention has been attracted to the late proceedings in British Guiana ; I merely wish to call your attention to the effect which such a measure as that to which I have referred, is likely to produce in those Colonies where low rates of wages prevail.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. Hincks*.

No. 2.
Governor *Hincks*
to Right Hon. *H.*
Labouchere, M. P.
9 November 1857.

BARBADOS.

— No. 3. —

(No. 52.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Hincks* to the Right Honourable
H. Labouchere, M. P.

Windward Islands, Barbados, 9 November 1857.

(Received, 3 December 1857.)

Sir,

(Answered, No. 96, 26 December 1857, page 54.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the copy of a letter addressed to me by Mr. T. D. Hill, of Mincing-lane, London, covering copies of a petition to the Legislature of Barbados signed on behalf of a considerable number of the non-resident proprietors of estates in this Island, and likewise a copy of the reply which I caused to be addressed to Mr. Hill.

I have, &c.
(signed) *F. Hincks*.

Enclosure 1.

Enclosure 2.

Enclosure 1, in No. 3.

Encl. 1, in No. 3.

Sir,

4, Mincing-lane, London,
16 September 1857.

I HAVE the honour to enclose, for your Excellency's information, copy of a memorial which has been forwarded to the two Houses of Legislature of Barbados, on the subject of improving the condition of the labouring classes in the Island.

Trusting your Excellency will favour the object in view with your countenance and support,

To His Excellency Francis Hincks, Esq.
Governor-in-Chief of the Windward Islands,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Thos. D. Hill*.

Sub-Enclosure.

Sub-Enclosure in Enclosure 1, in No. 3.

COPY of a MEMORIAL to the Legislative Council and House of Assembly, *Barbados*.

The humble Petition of the undersigned Non-resident Proprietors of Estates in Barbados,

Showeth,

THAT your memorialists have heard with serious regret and dismay that, notwithstanding the exertions which have been made in the Island, and the expenditure in the establishment of schools, &c., so far from the desired improvement having taken place, there has rather been a retrogression in the moral and social condition of the labouring population of said Island, and that, as one alarming consequence thereof, juvenile delinquency is greatly on the increase.

That your memorialists consider that, both on religious and political grounds, no efforts should be spared to stop this crying evil, and that, among the readiest means of accomplishing improvement, more widely extended religious instruction, and the prohibition, or at least the limitation of infant labour, would be found the most effective.

That your memorialists consequently pray your Honourable House to take the subject into your immediate consideration, and not only to enlarge, if necessary, the grants already made for the purposes of education, but also to pass an Act affording such assistance to the clergy of the different parishes as may enable them to employ the further agents required for carrying the glad tidings of the Gospel to the house of each labourer, and by reading, by the sale of Bibles, and by friendly admonition, to endeavour to raise the general character of the people.

Also to pass an Act to prevent the continuous labour of children of tender years, and to make regulations, either through the rural constables or some other means to see that the provisions of the Act are not infringed.

That your memorialists have observed with much satisfaction that the finances of the island are in a prosperous condition, and that the pecuniary means of accomplishing the desired objects are consequently at command; nevertheless, if further aid should be necessary, your memorialists, although at present extensive contributors to the funds raised, would gladly respond to a larger call upon them for so excellent a purpose as that of elevating the position of the labouring classes of the Island.

O. 13.

F 3

Signed

BARBADOS.

Signed on behalf of the members, whose names are hereunto annexed, of the association of non-resident proprietors and others for the improvement of the religious and social condition of the labouring classes of Barbados.

(signed) <i>Robt. C. Burton.</i> <i>The Earl of Harewood.</i> <i>The Dowager Lady Ford.</i> <i>Mrs. Hampden.</i> <i>Mrs. Maxwell Hinds.</i> <i>Rev. P. B. Austin.</i> <i>Rev. E. Elliot.</i> <i>Rev. J. R. Went.</i> <i>E. A. Applewhaite, Esq.</i> <i>G. E. Clarke, Esq.</i> <i>J. S. W. S. E. Drax, Esq.</i> <i>John Frere, Esq.</i> <i>H. Clement, Esq.</i>	<i>Thos. D. Hill.</i> <i>Elliot Grasett, Esq.</i> <i>Thos. N. Harris, Esq.</i> <i>Robert Haynes, Esq.</i> <i>Benjamin Hinds, Esq.</i> <i>Robert Hinds, Esq.</i> <i>P. L. Phillips, Esq., M.D.</i> <i>R. Reece, jun., Esq.</i> <i>Thomas Sealy, Esq.</i> <i>Messrs. Thos. Daniel & Co.</i> <i>Messrs. Thos. Daniel & Son.</i> <i>Messrs. S. Hardy & Sons.</i> <i>Alleyne C. Yard, Esq.</i>
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Encl. 2, in No. 3.

Enclosure 2, in No. 3.

Windward Islands, Barbados,
26 October 1857.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th ultimo, enclosing the copy of a petition from certain non-resident proprietors of estates in Barbados forwarded for presentation to the two Houses of the Legislature on the subject of improving the condition of the labouring classes in the Island, and to which you ask his Excellency's countenance and support.

The Governor entertains no doubt that the proprietors on whose behalf the petition has been signed, are actuated by the most praiseworthy motives, and he trusts that the observations which he has directed me to make in reply to your letter will be attributed by them to a desire on his part that they should be put fully in possession of the opinions which he has formed on the subject of their petition, and which, being at variance with their own, must prevent him from affording that co-operation which you request, and which his Excellency would much desire to give to any propositions emanating from so respectable and influential a body. The Governor is not of opinion that there has been a retrogression in the moral and social condition of the labouring classes of this Island, but as no grounds are stated in the petition for the assertion which is made, he thinks it better to abstain from discussing the point and more especially, as he is quite ready to admit that all the individual efforts which can be made, and all the funds which can be raised, will fall far short of accomplishing such an improvement in the condition of the labouring classes as the philanthropist would desire. The Governor would therefore be anxious rather to stimulate the exertions of the non-resident proprietors than to express any opinion calculated to render them less active.

It is to the remedies suggested in the petition before him that the Governor is of opinion that grave objections may be urged. Those remedies are, the prohibition or limitation of infant labour by legislative enactment, and increased appropriations from the public revenue for religious instruction. To deprive parents of the aid of the industry of their children would be a measure of great harshness, especially in a country where the rate of wages is very low. The arguments used for limiting the number of hours during which children may be employed in the close and unwholesome atmosphere of a factory, have not the slightest application to light agricultural labour, such as weeding; and the Governor does not believe that children actually work in Barbados one-half the number of hours to which their labour is limited in England. No case of grievance has been made out that would, in the opinion of the Governor, render it expedient to resort to a measure that would cause extreme discontent among the labouring classes, and would, moreover, in all probability, be objected to by the resident planters. With regard to the other remedy suggested in the petition, the Governor is of opinion that the charges on the revenue for Religious instruction and general education are already sufficiently high; and as the memorialists affirm that "they, although at present extensive contributors to the funds raised, would gladly respond to a larger call upon them," his Excellency directs me to observe that the great bulk of the revenue in Barbados is derived from duties on articles of consumption, such as flour, meal, fish, salted provisions, &c., to which the non-resident proprietors do not contribute at all, but which fall very heavily on the industrious classes. Formerly a considerable revenue was derived from taxes on land, but of late years these have been taken off, and duties on articles of consumption substituted in their place. The Governor desires me to state that, so far as his knowledge extends, there is no country where the landed proprietor is legally required to contribute so little to the support of the public institutions as in Barbados, and he earnestly hopes that, on being reminded of this fact, the proprietors will see the necessity of voluntarily assuming the duty of contributing to the improvement of the social and moral condition of their tenants and labourers.

The work that should be performed in this Island is precisely that which an enlightened and liberal landlord in England would insist on being carried out on his estate, notwithstanding

standing his heavy taxes for religious instruction and the administration of justice. One of the most effectual means of ameliorating the condition of the labouring classes would be, by providing them with proper dwellings. So long as the labourers are mere tenants-at-will, liable to being ejected at a few days' notice, it cannot be hoped that they will themselves erect suitable dwellings. The improvement of the residences of the labourers must depend solely on the proprietors, who have it in their power to effect this important reform, either by granting leases in perpetuity, the reserving adequate rents, or by erecting suitable houses. A great many of the estates have a sufficient number of children on them to warrant the institution of infant schools, the expense of which would be, comparatively speaking, trifling. Aid might be given to the establishment of dispensaries in the various localities. Juvenile reformatories and industrial schools for vagrant children, are also much required. The Governor has felt it his duty to endeavour to aid the Moravian missionaries in their attempts to establish ragged schools and a dormitory for vagrants; but though his Excellency and several of the resident proprietors have subscribed liberally for their support, he has heard with deep regret that there is cause to apprehend the abandonment of the dormitory, from the failure of the missionaries to obtain the support of the non-resident proprietors, who constitute so large a portion of the entire body. The Governor trusts that the foregoing remarks will not be considered in any degree offensive. He has no desire to obtrude his opinions on the non-resident proprietors of Barbados; but he has felt that his silence on such an occasion might be misconstrued, and he cannot but hope that some of the body on whose behalf you have addressed him, may be induced to weigh the heavy responsibilities which devolve on them, as the owners of most valuable and productive estates, and to make at least an effort to promote the improvement of their tenantry. He, at all events, while confiding in the wisdom of the Legislature, and earnestly hoping that he may be able to co-operate with them for the public good, feels it his duty to place on record his opinion, that it would be unwise to prosecute social reforms at the cost of the labouring classes, while the landed proprietors, and especially those of them who are non-resident, contribute in so small a degree to those burdens which, in other parts of Her Majesty's dominions, fall heavily upon fixed property.

Thomas D. Hill, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) C. Ready,
Acting Private Secretary.

— No. 4. —

(No. 3.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Hincks* to the Right Honourable
Sir *E. B. Lytton*, Bart., M. P.

Windward Islands, Barbados, 10 July 1858.
(Received, 2 August 1858.)

Sir,

(Answered, No. 18, 17 September 1858, p. 66.)

I HAVE deferred making a reply to Lord Stanley's Despatch of the 16th April* (No. 8), until I could accompany it with the information called for in his Lordship's two Despatches of the 27th April, which I have only been able to do by the present mail.

2. In submitting a few further observations on some of the topics which were discussed in the correspondence on which the Emigration Commissioners and Governor Wodehouse have reported, I think it will be more respectful and proper that I should confine myself to those points which alone seem to me to require further elucidation.

3. It is satisfactory to me to find that on one of the most important practical questions which has been under discussion in the correspondence, my views meet the concurrence of Governor Wodehouse, and, to a great extent, of the Emigration Commissioners. I refer to the mode of defraying the cost of the introduction of immigrant labourers.

4. I entirely concur with Governor Wodehouse, that the cost of immigration when defrayed out of the public funds, is, in point of fact, a bonus paid by the community for the production of sugar. I may, however, be permitted to doubt the correctness of the assertion, "it is true that all classes have been content to pay that bonus."

5. Governor Wodehouse declares that "the fairer and sounder principle of action" is, that "the estates to which immigrants may be allotted, ought to pay for them in exact proportion to the number they may receive." I should have felt it unnecessary to dwell further on this topic, if the principle advocated by Governor Wodehouse had received the unqualified approbation of Her Majesty's Government.

6. But although the Commissioners for Emigration concur with Mr. Wodehouse

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No. 4.

Governor *Hincks*
to Right Hon.
Sir *E. B. Lytton*,
Bart., M. P.
10 July 1858.

* Page 55.

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and myself "in considering that immigration should be paid for by those who profit by it;" and although they have cited what I consider unanswerable arguments in support of their opinion, they, in a subsequent passage, qualify that opinion, by stating that "it becomes difficult, both in practice and in equity, to enforce that strict rule that he who benefits by the emigrants shall pay for his introduction."

7. Governor Wodehouse, however, states that the rule has lately been enforced in Guiana, and the Chinese immigration lately sanctioned by the Secretary of State is, I apprehend, to be conducted at the expense of those requiring the labour. I have, myself, no doubt whatever, that if the rule were authoritatively established by Her Majesty's Government the planters would submit to it, as they appear to have done in British Guiana.

8. The Commissioners arrive at the conclusion that "the apportionment of the expense of coolie immigration among those who directly benefit by it is rather a principle to be steadily kept in view, than a rule to be inflexibly enforced." The practical effect of this conclusion on the part of the Commissioners is, that there is no settled policy on the subject, and that it is left, in a great degree, to the local legislatures, composed chiefly of planters, who have a direct pecuniary interest in the question to regulate the terms on which immigration should be permitted.

9. I may mention, by way of illustration, that the Commissioners in reporting very recently on the St. Vincent Immigration Acts, held it to be reasonable that the planters in the Legislature should determine what proportion of the expense should be thrown on the individual directly benefited, and what proportion on the bulk of employers who are indirectly benefited by the effect of the immigration on the labour market.

10. Now, in my opinion, the practical effect of the St. Vincent Act is to throw upon proprietors, who, by judicious treatment of their labourers are independent of immigration, the expense of importing labour for others, who, owing to their own bad management, are under the necessity of obtaining an additional supply. I admit that the former is a very small class compared to the latter, but I am persuaded that sound policy dictates the rigid enforcement of the rule of throwing the cost of importing labour on the planter who requires it. By such means the proprietors would be encouraged to pursue a judicious policy towards their labourers, but under the existing system, which throws the burden upon them generally, they have not so much inducement to employ strictly free labourers, and the consequence is, that the latter are more and more driven, by the force of circumstances, from the sugar plantations.

11. Had the Commissioners for Emigration reported in terms of decided opposition to my views on this subject, I should not have again pressed them upon your consideration; but they have so far concurred in them, that I trust I shall be excused for recommending not only that "the principle should be kept steadily in view," but that "it should be inflexibly enforced."

12. The Commissioners have stated reasons which lead them to think that it would be unjust to throw upon the planting interest the entire cost of immigration; these are, in substance, that but for the restrictions imposed by Government, immigration could be conducted more economically than it is, and that, therefore, the extra expense caused by the Government regulations should fall on the community at large.

13. Restrictions have been imposed by Parliament on emigration from the United Kingdom, which have materially added to the cost of passages, which have been further increased by direct taxes in Canada and the United States, applicable to the relief and assistance of the poorer classes; but it would hardly be maintained that the public should be made liable for such expenses. The restrictions have, I presume, been considered indispensably necessary; and it appears to me, that if they involve any additional cost, it should fall either on the persons seeking the labour, or on the labourers for whose benefit the restrictions have been imposed. It might, therefore, be fair to allow the planter, in consideration of any extra expense thrown on him by the regulations of the Government, to pay coolie labourers rather less than the current wages, which would still be much higher than they could get at home.

14. Governor Wodehouse has stated in his report, that "throughout the correspondence Mr. Hincks appears unable to view the subject in any other light than that in which it would present itself to a Barbadian planter," and then proceeds to observe, that I draw "a strong contrast between the conduct of the planters of St.

St. Lucia and the extreme liberality of the Barbadians to the negroes," but, he adds, "he leaves it very difficult to discover in what the St. Lucians fall short, and in no way explains why, in opposition to all experience of the human race, the Barbadian planter should act with wonderful liberality to those who are entirely at his mercy."

15. If I have conveyed the impression that the Barbadian planters treat their labourers "with wonderful liberality," I must explain, that my remarks were intended to apply relatively to the planters in the other West Indian Colonies, and neither positively nor relatively to the employers of labourers in the United Kingdom.

16. There is still much to be done to improve the condition of the labourers in Barbados, and so sensible of this are the proprietors, that two associations have been formed within the last year for the purpose of ameliorating the condition of the labourers, both of which have admitted the necessity of improving the tenure of land.

17. I regret that Mr. Wodehouse should have had any difficulty in discovering from my correspondence in what respects the St. Lucian planters fall short, as compared with those in Barbados, in their treatment of the labourers; but I cannot admit that I have failed to assign sufficient reasons for the anomaly presented by the condition of the Colonies within this Government.

18. Barbados is within a few hours sail of the other Colonies, and the cost of passage is trifling. Barbados is over populated, and wages are low, while land is very dear. The other islands require additional labour, and land is not more than one-fifth the price that it is in Barbados.

19. The principle referred to by Mr. Wodehouse, viz., "the attachment of every human being to his own country," is, in my opinion, wholly insufficient to account for the reluctance of the Barbados labourers to seek employment elsewhere. That reluctance arises, I am persuaded, from the fact that they are better off at home than they would be anywhere else.

20. Extraordinary as the assertion may appear, it is nevertheless true, that in the Colony where labour is superabundant, and where consequently the planter has been less dependent on his labourers, the latter have been better treated than they have been elsewhere.

21. I cannot, by any means, agree with Mr. Wodehouse, that it would have been unprofitable to have entered into "a detailed examination of the calculations brought forward by Mr. Hincks as to the comparative cost of cultivation in different Colonies, or even of those relating to the value of the wages paid in each." I readily admit, however, that a variety of circumstances such as locality, salubrity, skill and industry of the manager, may affect the comparative value of estates in the same Colony.

22. Such considerations are, in my opinion, wholly beside the question; which is as to the sufficiency of labour in each particular Colony for the cultivation of the estates established during slavery, and as to the cause of the abandonment of sugar cultivation by the labouring classes.

23. Mr. Wodehouse has entirely misunderstood my object in inquiring into the cost of labour. He states in paragraph 4, "that the correspondence shows that with present rates the negroes in St. Lucia are better off than in Guiana, and better than, for want of space, they possibly can be in Barbados." I should have been glad that Mr. Wodehouse had referred to that portion of the correspondence which he considers to establish such a fact.

24. My own opinion is, that the abandonment of sugar cultivation in the West India Colonies by so many of the creole labourers is to be ascribed to inadequate wages; to irregular payment of wages, but chiefly to the tenure of land on the sugar estates, viz., a tenancy-at-will or licence of occupation; and I shall proceed to offer some remarks in support of this opinion, which, I may observe, has been formed after a most careful investigation of the question in all the Colonies as well as in Barbados.

25. I shall briefly dispose of one of the advantages of a Barbados labourer. I believe that this is the only island in this Government in which the custom is to pay wages weekly in cash. The utmost regularity prevails in this respect, and I know that the Barbados planters believe that it has had an excellent effect. I have no doubt, that in many instances, labourers have abandoned estates in other islands, owing to irregularity in the payment of wages, or, as I should more properly state the case, the inability of the proprietor to employ labour in consequence

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sequence of his insolvency; I could refer to estates in St. Lucia, the labourers on which were compelled to leave, owing to their wages having been many months in arrear, and I am aware that the general practice in that Island is to withhold a portion of the wages, in the hope of thus preventing the people from leaving the estates. I have, moreover, been assured that the proprietors in St. Lucia who pay wages with any degree of regularity, have no difficulty whatever in getting all the labourers they require; indeed, as I had occasion to state on a former occasion, there is an ample supply of labour in St. Lucia for the cultivation of the estates. It has, to some extent, been directed to other employments, owing to the mistaken policy of the planters, and I have no hesitation in affirming that the practical effect of the coolie immigration policy for that Colony is, that the most enlightened planters will be taxed, in order to perpetuate the abuses which have led to the abandonment of the estates.

26. I can hardly separate the question of a remunerative rate of wages from that of the tenure of land, because in most of the Colonies the occupation of land has been connected with wages.

27. In the Despatches which were submitted for the consideration of the Emigration Commissioners and of Governor Wodehouse, I pointed out as forcibly as I could, that the main cause of the abandonment of the sugar estates by the creole labourers was the unsatisfactory tenure of land. I am not singular in this opinion; I have conversed with many disinterested persons who have carefully studied the labour question, and especially with ministers of religion of different persuasions, and I have found them deeply impressed with the same conviction. Dr. Davy, late Inspector General of Army Hospitals in this command, has in his excellent work, "The West Indies before and since Slave Emancipation," page 528, pointed out the evil in forcible terms.

28. I confess that it seems to me most extraordinary that so little importance has been attached to the bearing of the tenure of land on the abandonment of the estates. The Commissioners for Emigration in paragraph 42, observe, "it is true that the labourers' land and cottages are held at will in St. Lucia, but so are they at Barbados. Ordinary wages do not exceed 10 *d.* a day, either in one Colony or the other." But surely the Commissioners must perceive the practical effect of this state of things.

29. The Barbados proprietors have no occasion to attract labourers; land in small quantities being worth from 100 *l.* to 150 *l.* per acre in Barbados is beyond the reach of ordinary labourers, who must submit to the tenancy-at-will, and must take the current wages. In St. Lucia, on the contrary, the labourer can buy an acre of land for about 6 *l.* to 8 *l.*, and will therefore not remain a tenant-at-will with low wages on a sugar estate.

30. The Commissioners are mistaken in supposing that the result of my policy would be to throw the growth of sugar into the hands of small proprietors. What I advocate is the concession of small allotments on the sugar estates in the vicinity of the works, varying, perhaps, from half an acre to two acres, according to circumstances, on a freehold tenure.

31. Even if 30 or 40 acres of land were so disposed of, it would not be much more than is leased on many Barbados estates to the labourers. Such an arrangement would foster a mutual dependence on the part of the proprietors and labourers. The former would have to depend on the latter for the cultivation of his estate, while the labourers would be unable to manufacture their crop without the use of the works of the proprietor.

32. I affirm that this mutual dependence has been a main cause of the good understanding which has subsisted between the two classes in Barbados; and I know that this opinion is shared by the most enlightened of the proprietary class.

33. As to the rate of wages, and the comparison in the cost of producing sugar by slave and free labour, there are certain data which ought to be kept in view, and which I think will enable the Commissioners of Emigration to form a judgment on these points. The Commissioners admit in paragraph 50, that my despatches furnish strong grounds for believing that sugar is grown more cheaply in Barbados now than under slavery. They however add, that they furnish very scanty means for forming a judgment whether immigration is required in order to enable free labour in the majority of the West India Islands to compete with that of slavery.

34. In conducting this inquiry, it is fortunate that there is a satisfactory point from which to start. Sugar cultivation is carried on most profitably in Barbados, it

it is carried on more economically than during slavery, and it cannot be denied that sugar produced by free labour in this Colony can compete with any grown by slave labour.

35. Surely then it is fair to institute a comparison between sugar cultivation in Barbados and in the other West India Islands; and to inquire into the nature of the advantages enjoyed by the former. I endeavoured in the Despatches which were submitted to the Emigration Commissioners and to Governor Wodehouse, to show that we must look to other causes than the superabundance of labour in Barbados, or the deficiency of labour in other Colonies, in order to account for the inferior position of the latter. I trust that I shall be more successful in explaining my views on the present than I was on the former occasion.

36. The cost of delivering a hogshead of sugar to the consumer in England may be conveniently divided into the following heads:—1st. Rent or interest on capital invested in land and buildings; 2d. Labour; 3d. Estate, supplies, foreign manures, stock and its maintenance, wear and tear of machinery, value of casks, cartage, taxes, skilled labour, including manager, overseers, &c.; and 4th. Freight, duty, and other charges in England.

37. In the last two items, the Barbados planters enjoy no advantages over either their fellow colonists or the producers of sugar cultivated by slave labour. I am inclined to think on the contrary, that they labour under some disadvantages. Their estates are small, very few producing over 200 hogsheads of sugar, and many under 100; indeed, the average is less than 100 hogsheads. There is no water-power in the island, and steam has been introduced on a very few estates. Wind is admitted to be a more expensive power than either of the others, and would be unsuited for cultivation on a large scale, which ought to be more economical in every respect.

38. In considering the cost of the several items embraced under the head No. 3 in my former correspondence, I stated that I was convinced the aggregate might be fairly reduced by 25 per cent. The estimate given by the Barbados Agricultural Society was 7*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.* per hogshead, and I content myself with observing that if it be more in any of the other Colonies, the cause must be extravagant or injudicious management.

39. The interest of the capital employed in the purchase of land and buildings in Barbados at the current market rate is 7*l.* per hogshead; the cost of labour according to the estimate of the Agricultural Society is 6*l.* 5*s.*, but I am persuaded that is much too high a rate, and that it may be taken at 4*l.* 10*s.* My estimate, I may observe, is based on returns from several well managed estates, some of which give less than 4*l.*

40. The result then is that in Barbados the cost of sugar is per hogshead—

	£.	s.	d.
No. 1. Rent or interest	-	-	-
No. 2. Labour	-	4	10
No. 3. Supplies, &c.	-	5	17
		17	7
Less estimated value of Rum and Molasses	-	4	3
	£.	13	4

or about 17*s.* 6*d.* per cwt.

41. You will observe that the item of rent or interest of money is above that of labour, and about 9*s.* 4*d.* per cwt. This is the item too about which there is the least doubt. Many properties have changed hands within the last twelve months, and the majority at higher prices than my estimate. I have calculated interest at the current rate of six per cent., though no one would buy an estate and run the risk of markets, without expecting to realise from eight to ten per cent. for his money. The purchases have been made, I think, exclusively by resident proprietors of great experience. Several of these proprietors have acquired wealth by cultivating sugar since the abolition of slavery.

42. The estimate of the cost of producing sugar furnished by the Agricultural Society, and which will be found in Dr. Davy's work on the West Indies, pages 139 to 141, give labour at 6*l.* 5*s.* and other expenses, 7*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.*, which added to 7*l.* for interest would be 21*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* per hogshead, less value of offal crop,

BARBADOS.

4 *l* 3 *s*. 4 *d*. I am convinced not only by the price paid for property, but by statements furnished by the proprietors of well conducted estates, that the estimates of the societies are too high, and that mine may be relied on as not too low.

43. I now propose to compare the cost of producing sugar in Barbados with that in the other Colonies. I have already shown that the several items under the head No. 3, amounting in the aggregate to 5 *l*. 17 *s*. 5 *d*. per hogshead ought not to be more in those Colonies than in Barbados. I may add that the prosperity of Barbados is invariably attributed to the abundance, and consequent cheapness of its labour. Now the value of labour in Barbados is less than one-third of the aggregate cost of the hogshead of sugar, and yet it is about the same price as it is in the other Colonies with the exception of Guiana and Trinidad, in the former of which it is about 50 per cent. higher than in Barbados.

44. I may observe, that although when estimated by the task, wages are fully 50 per cent. higher in British Guiana, and considerably higher in Trinidad, yet that in both those Colonies the sugar-cane can be ratooned for several years, whereas in Barbados on the great majority of the estates new plants are put in every year. This is important, and will account for what seems an extraordinary fact that the cost of labour in producing sugar in some of the other Colonies is less than in Barbados.

45. But without taking any credit for the advantage derived from ratooning, and estimating wages in Guiana at 50 per cent. higher than they are in Barbados, the cost of labour should not be more than 6 *l*. 15 *s*. 0 *d*. per hogshead, or 2 *l*. 5 *s*. 0 *d*. more than in Barbados. This then is the only disadvantage under which British Guiana ought to labour. I proceed to consider the relative value of property in the two Colonies. I was informed a few days ago on the highest possible authority that an estate in Berbice capable of making 600 hogsheads of sugar had been offered for 6,000 *l*. without finding a purchaser. The reason of this was likewise stated to me. The expenses were nearly equal to the returns. Now, if the value of this estate be assumed at 10,000 *l*., or more than 50 per cent. above what the proprietor valued it at, the interest on the capital invested would be 1 *l*. per hogshead, against 7 *l*. on a Barbados estate, whereas the excess of labour I have shown to be 2 *l*. 5 *s*. 0 *d*. Thus, in the items of interest and labour combined, the Guiana proprietor has an advantage over the Barbadian of 3 *l*. 15 *s*. 0 *d*. per hogshead; while in the items under heads 3 and 4 he is on about the same footing.

46. I have purposely compared that Colony with Barbados, where labour is higher than in any other, and I must again point out that unskilled labour is only one element among many in the cost of sugar, and by no means the most important.

47. The Commissioners for Emigration seem to question the extent of my practical knowledge, and to rely a great deal on the "clear and coincident statements of Mr. Kortright and Mr. Breen." I may be permitted to observe that, in my Despatch of the 9th November 1857, Grenada, No. 41,* I pointed out in paragraph 18 that Mr. Kortright could not defend the system of management, or of agriculture in Grenada. He admitted that it was "too true that there is a great misapplication of labour." I obtained statements of the cost of producing sugar in Grenada through Mr. Kortright from reliable sources, and I analysed those statements, and showed that it was not in the item of labour that they were unable to compete with Barbados, but in European supplies, and in salaries; that in one instance the whole cost of labour had been 6 *l*. per hogshead, while that of salaries had been 5 *l*.

48. I carefully analysed all the returns submitted to me from other Colonies, and I satisfied myself, although I appear to have failed in convincing the Commissioners for Emigration, that the success of the Barbados planters cannot fairly be ascribed to the superabundance of labour, but it is owing to their superior agricultural skill, and to their economical management of their estates, many of which are superintended personally by the proprietors. It is a most extraordinary fact, but one, regarding the correctness of which I entertain no doubt, that in this island, where labour is superabundant and cheap, it is economised in various modes to an extent that the planters in other Colonies seem to have no idea of.

49. With regard to British Guiana, Dr. Davy, to whom I have already referred as a distinguished and reliable authority, refers in page 358 of his work to the feeling of disappointment and regret excited "at the little skill displayed in the cultivation of the estates thus laboriously and expensively made. It is no exaggeration,

* Page 71.

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geration, I believe, to say that in rudeness it even surpasses Trinidad." I might quote several pages to the same effect, conveying not only the opinion of Dr. Davy himself, but of Dr. Spier, a very competent observer, intimately acquainted with that Colony in which he had resided for many years.

50. As, however, the Commissioners for Emigration have expressed a desire in paragraph 50 of their report for information "as to the cost of producing sugar by free labour on an estate equally well managed and equally fertile, where population is scanty, land plentiful, and no immigration under indenture allowed," I may refer to the Island of Tobago, into which there has been but a very small immigration of Africans, several years ago, and where land is plentiful and cheap.

51. Lieutenant Governor Drysdale has taken great pains to ascertain the cost of producing sugar in that Island from the most experienced practical planters, and the result of his inquiries was, that it cost from 4*s.* 10*d.* to 7*s.* 5½*d.* per cwt., or from 3*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* to 5*l.* 11*s.* 7*d.* per hhd. of 15 cwt. net. This of course does not include interest on capital which in Tobago would not be more than from 1*l.* to 2*l.* per hhd., nor maintenance of stock, nor wear and tear of works. On the other hand no allowance is made for the molasses and rum, which Mr. Drysdale observes are "sufficient indeed sometimes to defray the entire current expenditure of the property for the cultivation and manufacture of the whole crop."

52. You will perceive that according to the returns given by Tobago planters the entire cost of producing sugar in that colony is considerably less than what the Barbados planter pays in the shape of interest on invested capital.

53. Mr. Drysdale who has devoted great attention to the subject while admitting that "hired labour is obtained with difficulty, and is only given in a desultory and capricious manner," adds that the labouring class are "far more industrious than others of their class in some of the other islands."

54. There is no difficulty in reconciling the two assertions. In Tobago wages are from 8 *d.* to 10 *d.* per day. The consequence has been that the labourers would not work on the estates, but the result in that Island has fortunately been the adoption of the Metayer system. Mr. Drysdale believes that one-third of the whole Island crop has been produced in this way. He refers as an illustration of its working, to an estate which is cultivated entirely under this system which produced last year 130 hhds., and is likely to reach 180 this year.

55. The labourers, therefore, would receive for their share for cultivating the estate 65 to 90 hhds. of sugar, and taking the net value at 15 l. per hhd. they would receive for labour from 957 l. to 1,350 l. The cultivation of such an estate in Barbados would cost 520 l. to 720 l., and according to Mr. Drysdale's statement the highest cost of cultivation where labourers are hired in Tobago would be 4 l. 11 s. 7 d., or about 300 l. to 415 l. for the quantity of sugar produced on the estate cultivated by the Métayers.

56. A more striking illustration could hardly be given of the mistaken policy of West Indian planters. Had liberal wages, with small allotments on a freehold tenure, been given to the Tobago labourers at first, there can hardly be a doubt that they would have remained as labourers on the estates. They were driven from the estates by inadequate wages and a bad tenure, and the result is, that they are cultivating abandoned estates upon terms which yield them a much higher price for their labour than can be obtained in any of the other colonies. Mr. Drysdale states that one man has made 17 hhds. of sugar, others 10, 5, and under.

57. The Métayer system which has been introduced extensively in Tobago, and to some extent in St. Lucia, is that under which labour is best remunerated, but even under that system the Tobago planter gets a good return for his capital. Such an estate as that to which I have referred would be worth about 5,000 £, the interest on which would be 300 £. The wear and tear of machinery and maintenance of stock might be 200 £. more, and the value of the sugar from 65 to 90 hds. would be 975 £. to 1,350 £, in addition to which the proprietor gets the whole offal crop, which would be worth 400 £. to 500 £.

58. Governor Wodehouse seems to doubt the correctness of my assertion, that the Barbados labourers are better off than those in St. Lucia and Grenada. It is, nevertheless, admitted by the Commissioners of Emigration that it appears from the Despatches that wages are about the same in those Colonies, and the expenditure for labour in producing a given quantity of sugar does not vary much. But I do not think that either the Commissioners or Governor Wodehouse appreciate the contingent advantages of the Barbados labourer.

59. I can state, without hesitation, that it is unusual for estate labourers to cultivate

BARBADOS.

cultivate sugar on their own account in the other Colonies. In Barbados it is the general rule that they do so. Dr. Davy estimated the produce from the small allotment of labourers in 1846-7 at 7,000 hhds., and from one estate from 40 holdings, each of a quarter of an acre, 25 hhds. It will not be pretended that labourers in any other Colony enjoy such advantages. Though I am inclined to think that Dr. Davy must have included the small proprietors with the labourers in his estimate of 7,000 hhds. I have no doubt of the correctness of his statement as to the 25 hhds., the value of which might fairly be estimated at 375 £., which would in all probability be nearly as much as the cash paid for labour on the estate.

60. I fear that I have already extended my remarks on this subject to an unreasonable length. I may, however, state summarily what I consider that I have proved in this, and in my former Despatches.

1st. Barbados can compete in the production of sugar with any country in the world, whether the cultivation is carried on by slave or free labour. This is proved by the value of property. An estate capable of producing 100 hhds. being worth 12,000 £.

2d. The cost of unskilled labour in Barbados, in which I include that in the boiling-house, is little more than one-quarter of the total cost of production, including the interest on invested capital.

3d. The Colonies where land is cheap could afford to offer much higher wages to labourers, and if they desire to attract labour, which it is admitted is superabundant in Barbados, ought to do so, by giving higher wages and by improving the tenure of land.

4th. So far from trying to attract labour from Barbados, these Colonies hold out no inducement for free immigration. I conversed myself, within the last few days, with a labourer who had returned from St. Lucia to Barbados. He told me that in Barbados he got 1s. for a task, and that when it was finished he was free, whereas in St. Lucia he got 10d. for a day's wages, and was not allowed to perform task-work. He likewise stated that the land granted to the labourers was high up on the sides of hills, where it was impossible to cultivate the cane, and most inconvenient for the labourers to reach.

61. I think it proper to observe that, after diligent inquiry, I have never been furnished with an instance in which a sugar estate has been abandoned for want of labour. The causes of abandonment are to be sought elsewhere, and in my opinion are the insolvency of the proprietors, the expensive management of the attornies of the non-resident proprietors, and the bad location of estates, which though yielding a profit under a high protective system when all properties had reached a fictitious value, could not be cultivated with profit when subjected to fair competition.

62. Mr. Wodehouse states that I seem to look for a considerable extent of new cultivation in St. Lucia and Grenada, but that I do not show any ground for this anticipation. I am not aware that I expressed the opinion thus ascribed to me; but in my Despatch to the Secretary of State, dated 9th November, St. Lucia, No. 57,* paragraph 18, I state, "The resident proprietors in St. Lucia would, I imagine, be themselves unwilling to have new lands brought into cultivation, and I doubt the possibility of doing so with profit."

63. Mr. Wodehouse expresses the opinion, in paragraph 8 of his report, that the negroes and Indians cannot, "without compulsion," be induced to cultivate the required supply of tropical productions. From this opinion I totally dissent. It is by such arguments that the maintenance of slavery is defended. I am ready to admit that the same amount of labour per diem cannot be obtained in the tropics as in colder climates, but I believe it to be a fallacy that the creoles of African descent are less willing to labour than the people of other races. If sufficient inducements are offered they will work industriously, and this is admitted by persons who have had much better opportunities of judging than I can pretend to.

64. Though I have thought it desirable to offer the foregoing remarks in support of the opinions expressed in my former Despatches, I fear, judging from the report of the Emigration Commissioners, that there would be little use in my offering any practical suggestions. The Commissioners seem to think that it would be inexpedient for Her Majesty's Government to attempt to improve the

tenure,

* Page 2.

tenure, or to enforce regularity in the payment of sufficient wages by making immigration contingent on the adoption of such reforms.

65. The reasons assigned by the Commissioners for recommending non-interference on the part of Her Majesty's Government deserve great consideration; but on the other hand, I have no hope, judging from past experience, that reforms will be carried out by the parties who believe themselves interested in the maintenance of existing abuses, and I cannot but think that Her Majesty's Government might effect one important reform by insisting that the wages of coolie immigrants should be paid weekly in cash. The planters would find it difficult to refuse to the creole labourers what they had to give to the coolies, and the Barbados system of regular weekly payment could thus be introduced into the other colonies.

66. In conclusion, I would observe that I have taken great pains to be accurate in my figures. I am well aware that some of my statements would be disputed by persons with better claims than myself to practical knowledge. My estimates may be pronounced much too low; and it may be said that the expenses of labour especially are much higher than 4*l* 10*s*. per hogshead. I have no doubt, moreover, that some planters in Barbados actually pay more under the head of labour than I have estimated; but on the other hand, I am convinced that many others pay considerably less.

67. The planters themselves have admitted as is shown in Dr. Davy's "West Indies," page 141, that the value of the rum and molasses is \$ 20, or 4*l* 3*s*. 4*d*. per hogshead. The net price of sugar per hogshead may be fairly estimated at 15*l*., and the charge for interest on invested capital has been correctly stated by me at 7*l*. It is therefore clear that 12*l* 3*s*. 4*d*. per hogshead is what the Barbados planter must rely on to cover labour, contingent charges of all kinds, and that profit which the capitalist will look for beyond six per cent. Now, my estimate is for labour and supplies 10*l* 7*s*. 5*d*., leaving a margin of only 1*l* 15*s*. 11*d*. for profit, over and above interest at six per cent.

68. It must be obvious that very little reliance can be placed on the information obtained as to the cost of labour, and of supplies, and contingencies. Much will depend on economical management, locality, &c. For instance, in Lord Stanley's letter to Mr. Gladstone, published in 1850, detailed statements are given, which were furnished to his Lordship as an abstract of the books of "Hanover Estate," in Jamaica. It appears from these statements that in five years, 1842-3-4-5-6, that estate paid for labour and supplies on an average 36*l*. per hogshead, the lowest rate being 32*l*. and the highest 45*l*. It is not surprising that with such management the property was worth nothing, and that there was an annual heavy loss on the cultivation.

69. But the same Returns show that the sugar actually netted a price far beyond what a Barbados planter would look for. What I contend is this: Barbados sugar is netting at present about 15*l*. per hogshead, and the planters are perfectly satisfied with that rate, and, without expecting an advance, are buying property so high that every hogshead of sugar is subject to 7*l*. for interest on capital invested. It is obvious, therefore, that labour and supplies together cannot cost more than about 8*l*. per hogshead, or such prices would not be given.

70. It cannot be alleged that Barbados has an advantage over other Colonies in supplies or contingencies of any kind; in fact all the allegations are that its superiority is in its cheap and abundant labour. Let their labour and capital be combined. Barbados is at a disadvantage of 5*l*. to 6*l*. per hogshead, owing to the high price of property, and the price of labour is as high here as in any Colony but Guiana and Trinidad. But if the latter Colonies gave even double Barbados rates, and if they cultivated with the same skill, they would be able to compete with it. The truth however is, and it is vain to dispute it, that Barbados owes its prosperity not to its superabundance of labour, but to the skill and economy with which its estates have been cultivated.

I have, &c.
(signed) F. Hincks.

BARBADOS.

Wages are paid
regularly in Guiana
and Trinidad
every fortnight.

BARBADOS.

— No. 5. —

No. 5.
Governor Hincks
to Right Hon.
Sir E. B. Lytton,
Bart., M. P.
3 Sept. 1858.

(No. 50.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Hincks* to the Right Honourable
Sir *E. Bulwer Lytton*, Bart., M. P.

Windward Islands, Barbados, 3 September 1858.

(Received, 2 October 1858.)

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that the iron screw steam-ship "*Mauritius*," bound from Hong Kong to the Havannah, with Chinese emigrants, anchored in Carlisle Bay on the 30th ultimo, to obtain a supply of water and coal.

2. I considered it my duty, having reference to the state of public opinion both in these Colonies and in England with regard to this traffic, to direct special instructions to be given to the Comptroller of Customs to make the entry and search authorised by the Chinese Passengers' Act, 18 & 19 Vict. c. 104.

3. I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of the letter addressed to the Comptroller of Customs by the Acting Colonial Secretary, and of the report of the former officer, the correctness of which I am able to confirm by my own personal observation during a visit which I paid to the steamer "*Mauritius*."

I have, &c.
(signed) *F. Hincks*.

Enclosure 1.

Enclosure 2.

Encl. 1, in No. 5.

Enclosure 1, in No. 5.

Sir,

Secretary's Office, 30 August 1858.

THE acting assistant harbour-master reported yesterday that the iron screw steam-ship "*Mauritius*," from Hong Kong, with 686 Chinese emigrants, bound to the Havana, has put into this port for coal and water.

The Governor does not for a moment assume that there is anything suspicious or informal connected with this vessel; but, nevertheless, he is of opinion, that under all the circumstances, it is important to ascertain whether the contracts which the emigrant passengers have entered into are regular, and duly certified by the Emigration Agent at Hong Kong; and also whether the men are aware of the terms of their engagement, the period for which they are bound to serve, and the fact that the Colony to which they are destined is a slave-holding Colony.

His Excellency requests, therefore, that you will be so good as to board the "*Mauritius*," and taking for your guide the Imperial statute, 18 & 19 Vict. c. 104, referring especially to the 6th section of the Act and the schedules, satisfying yourself on these particulars, and report the result for his Excellency's information.

It may be as well at the same time to observe if the requirements of the Passengers' and Navigation Acts have been complied with.

I need only add, that the Governor relies on your exercising the delicacy and tact which will readily occur to you as necessary in instituting these inquiries.

R. D. Fraser, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. Hampden King*,
Acting Col. Sec.

Encl. 2, in No. 5.

Enclosure 2, in No. 5.

Sir,

Customs, Barbados, 30 August 1858.

I HAVE respectfully to acknowledge your letter of this day's date, relative to the iron screw steam-ship "*Mauritius*," from Hong Kong, with Chinese emigrants, bound to the Havana, which vessel put into this port yesterday for coal and water; and expressing the desire of his Excellency the Governor that I should ascertain all particulars connected with the said ship.

I have the honour to report, for the Governor's information, that, fully impressed with a sense of his Excellency's solicitude respecting emigrants proceeding to a slave-holding Colony in a vessel carrying the British flag, I boarded the "*Mauritius*" and carefully examined her papers, which were readily and courteously tendered to me by the captain and officers of the ship. I found the contracts entered into with the emigrants (each of whom had a copy in Chinese and Spanish) to be regular, and duly certified by the Emigration Agent at Hong Kong, in accordance with the Act 18 & 19 Vict. c. 104; and also that the schedules of that Act, and the requirements of the Passengers' and Navigation Acts had been complied with. I was particularly anxious to ascertain whether the emigrants were

were aware of the terms and period of their engagement; and more especially of the fact that they were destined to a slave-holding country. On these points I was enabled to satisfy myself, through the assistance of an interpreter, and in presence of some officers from the garrison who came on board, one of whom seemed not unacquainted with the language and habits of the emigrants.

I may add that the emigrants appeared cheerful and contented, and to have had their comforts in all respects attended to.

The ship cleared at Hong Kong on the 18th day of May last, with 741 emigrants, and the surgeon of the vessel stated to me that the casualties, chiefly from diarrhoea, up to this date, have been 58.

The "Mauritius" is a British ship, built in the year 1852; official number, 26,216; gross tonnage, 2,134 $\frac{6}{10}$; register tonnage, 1,451 $\frac{7}{10}$; owners, Robert Barclay, Robert Carle, and James Hamilton, all of Glasgow, in the county of Lanark, Scotland; present master, Donald Cruikshank, the number of whose certificate of competency is 11,231.

J. Hampden King, Esq.
Acting Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.
(signed) R. D. Fraser,
Comptroller.

— No. 6. —

(No. 55.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Hincks* to the Right Honourable
Sir E. Bulwer Lytton, Bart. M. P.

Windward Islands, Barbados, 25 September 1858.
(Received, 15 October 1858.)

Sir,

(Answered, No. 23, 10 November 1858, p. 68.)

IN my Despatch of the 1st instant, transmitting the Barbados Blue Book for the year 1857, and my remarks thereon, I drew your attention to the recent establishment, by the resident and non-resident proprietors of estates in this island, of voluntary associations for promoting the amelioration of the condition of the labouring classes, and specially adverted to a proposition which had been made by the local associations to change the tenure on which land is rented to the labourers.

2. The West India labour question is one of such great importance that I venture to draw your attention to an editorial article which has recently appeared in the Barbados "Liberal," edited by Mr. Prescod, for many years a member of the Assembly of this Colony, and a gentleman who enjoys the confidence of a very large portion of the inhabitants of the British West Indies.

3. This article has been elicited by the discussions which have taken place in Barbados in consequence of the proposition to change the present tenure to one of a more permanent character. It is well deserving of attention, and especially because it explains the views of large classes, who, from the fact that they are not represented in the Colonial Legislatures, have little opportunity of making their opinions known in England.

4. The arguments in the article which I transmit are, I believe, applicable to the West India Colonies generally; but the practical effects of the existing tenure have been felt much more seriously by the planting interests in other Colonies than in this.

5. In Barbados, owing to the scarcity of land and the density of the population, the tenure has not yet deprived the planters of an adequate supply of labourers. In all the other Colonies the effect has been to drive the labourers from the plantations.

6. My object being simply to lay before you the views of a large and influential class in the West Indies, which are stated with moderation and temper, I shall not further trespass on your attention. It will be for you to determine whether the article which I transmit is deserving of the publicity which is given to documents transmitted with the Blue Book Reports.

I have, &c.
(signed) F. Hincks.

BARBADOS.

No. 6.
Governor Hincks
to Right Hon.
Sir E. B. Lytton,
Bart. M. P.
25 Sept. 1858.

Barbados, No. 48.

Enclosure.
Editorial article in
Barbados "Liberal," 22 Sept. 1858.

BARBADOS.

Enclosure in No. 6.

Encl. in No. 6.

TRUTH AND JUSTICE.

Bridgetown, Wednesday, 22 September 1858.

THE proposition before the public in the recommendation of the joint associations of St. Philip and St. John, which the meeting at Sandford was held to controvert, has exclusive reference to the tenure on which the labourers located on estates occupy lands and houses for which they pay rent. That tenure is now, with some few exceptions, a monthly one, with condition of service on the part of the tenant in addition to stipulated rent. It will assist very materially our perception of the real merits of the controversy if we take a full and particular view of the whole case which the question embodies.

The advent of emancipation found the slaves on the several estates in occupation of the houses that had been provided to shelter them, and the allotment lands they had been permitted to cultivate for their benefit during slavery; and, for the first few years after the close of the apprenticeship, they with few exceptions continued to occupy these, as incident to service, without paying direct rent for them. They gave their labour to the estate, generally for five days in the week, at a fixed rate of wages, some 20 to 30 per cent. below the common market rate, and this was the considered equivalent for rent. But the arrangement was, in the very nature of things, calculated to embroil the two parties in constant dispute and litigation. The labourer, on his part, was naturally anxious to get, whenever he could, the higher wages offered away from home; and the planter, just as naturally, perhaps, sought to involve all the working members of the labourer's household in the obligation to give their services to the estate at the fixed rate of wages. We need not dwell at present on the evil results from this state of things to the parties themselves, and to society through them. The system was gradually relaxed when it was found that the law did not bear out the planter in his claim to the services of all the members of the occupier's household, and the plan of direct renting came by degrees into vogue, this renting being almost in every case weekly, and with the mischievous condition still invariably attached of service on the part of the renter at a fixed rate of wages.

The Master and Servants Act of 1840 had been framed for the then existing state of things; and providing for the resumption by the planter of houses and lands which his hired servants were permitted to occupy as incident to service, it gave the latter a right to a month's notice to quit, and to reap his growing crops or receive their appraised value, at the option of the planter. But the provisions of this Act did not exactly coincide with the new state of renting. Tenures incident to service were tenures at will with a circumstance, and the Act of 1840 was made in special reference to that circumstance. It could not well be strained to apply to simple tenancies at will, as the labourers' holdings now generally were; and in 1850 Mr. Maycock effected the desirable alteration in the law by passing a Bill through the Legislature, bringing all such tenancies, where the rent reserved is payable at less than quarterly periods, under the provisions of the Act of 1840, as occupations incident to service.

This, then, is the state of the law at present, as regards the tenant-labourer. In practice, he has a house and land allotment on the estate—more commonly the land alone, the house being his own—for which he pays weekly, either in money or in labour, a stipulated rent, generally the full value of the property, and is under engagement besides, as a condition of the renting, to give the estate a certain number of days' labour at a fixed rate of wages, varying from one-sixth to one-third less than the market rate. The tenant, of course, is subject to all the biddings of the landlord, and those in authority under him, as to the service of the stipulated number of days, and exposed besides to their perpetual interference and attempted control in all matters in which it may be their pleasure to override his personal right to judge for himself. The penalty, if he presumes to resist this petty tyranny, is ejection at a month's notice from his rented allotment, his growing crops being taken at an appraised value, which is often grudgingly paid, and in 19 cases out of 20 comes short of their actual value to him, to say nothing of the improvement of the land, or the tillage in actual preparation at the time for putting in a crop. For any cause whatever, or, so to speak, for no cause, at the mere will and pleasure of the landlord or his agent, this heavy penalty may be applied at any instant, with the legal month's notice. But as the tenant forfeits his crops if the notice proceed from him, an inconceivable amount of petty oppression may be inflicted on the one side and endured on the other in view of this fact.

Is it reasonable to suppose—we appeal to the common sense and ordinary experience of fellow-men to say if it be at all reasonable to suppose, that, in such a state of things, under such circumstances as these, the labourer, as a general rule, can be satisfied, contented, have settled and correct views of home, be particularly anxious to surround himself with substantial comforts, and in a fair way to profit by the moral and religious influences brought to bear for his improvement? Is it in the nature of things that he should, under such circumstances, entertain for his landlord and employer any other feelings than those of dread, of distrust, of reckless indifference to his interests beyond the mere momentary point of contact where his own self-interest is directly involved? Does it consist with our knowledge of human nature, as we see it in everyday intercourse with the world, that the relations of these parties and the feelings to which they give rise, under the circumstances stated, could, by any possibility, be such as the best interests of the parties themselves, and the wellbeing of society around them require that those relations and feelings should be?

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It is this highly mischievous state of things that is now sought to be corrected, by the change of land tenure from monthly to yearly at least, with no condition of service. We are told, in opposition to the proposed change, that the evils complained of are only theoretic, the power held by the planter being very rarely exercised to the detriment of the labourer. But those who argue in this way, do so in seeming thorough ignorance of human nature and the influences by which it is affected. And the argument, besides, in this particular instance, is, in point of fact, untrue. The power of ejectment, we grant, is but rarely exercised by the planter, and, from the very nature of things, could only be exercised rarely, or society would be in a constant state of convulsion through the country, as some of us remember to have seen it in 1838-9. The planter holds this power as his ultimatum to enforce submission to his will and pleasure. He has seldom occasion to exercise it; but his ability to do so at any moment and in any given case is undoubted, and has in practice all the desired effect. There is nothing, we say, in the present state of law or the prevalent public sentiment through the country, to prevent any tenant labourer, for any cause or for no cause, receiving, at the very instant we are now writing, notice of ejectment, and at the end of the legal month having his crops taken from him at an appraised value, his household rudely broken up, and the members of it, infancy and decrepit age, mere boys and budding maidens, with those of riper age, all turned adrift to shift as they best can for themselves, until another location under precisely the same circumstances, and subject to the self-same chances, bring them, perhaps, together again. This is the evil. The exposedness of the labourer and his family to such treatment is the thing complained of. It is no answer to this to say that the power is rarely exercised. It ought not to be possessed. We dread a murderous weapon in the hands of a madman, from the mere sense of insecurity induced by his possession of it. We know that he holds that which may be used to our injury, and we cannot be sure that he will not so use it.

But if the ultimate power of ejectment is rarely exercised by the planter, his vast power, short of this, and to which this, in fact, is meant to enforce submission, is in constant operation, effecting all the mischief that we charge to it. The power of ejectment, of itself, would be of small practical value in the eyes of the most strenuous stickler for letting "well alone," and few of our planters, we dare say, would be unwilling to relinquish it, but for the superstructure of which it is the base. The labourer, to go no further into detail, pays in rent the full value for his allotment, with or without a house, and is required besides to give his labour to the estate for four or five days of the week, at a rate of wages usually from one-sixth to one-third less than the market rate, having at times to endure even greater hardships than this. Some planters, we know, give the full rate, but they are the exception which goes to prove the rule. The general understanding is, that the located labourer shall give the estate four or five days' labour when required—for there is no obligation to find him constant employment—at 20 cents (10*d.* sterling) a day, whilst that labour is commonly worth 24 cents, sometimes 30 cents, these higher rates being often paid to unlocated labourers working in the same field with the located. We say nothing of the simple morality of this as a mere business transaction between man and man; but we revert to the question, whether it is in accordance with our experience of the world that the labourer should be satisfied, contented, and in a fair way to improvement under such circumstances, or that the wellbeing of society should be promoted by them?

One of the resolutions of the meeting at Sandford declares—

"That the present Contract Act is sufficient in itself to carry into effect the reciprocal duties of master and servant; and that under the said Act in force, since the abolition of slavery, the best of feeling is promoted between employers and employed, giving full and ample protection to both parties."

This resolution gives direct contradiction to all we have written in this article, and may farther write on the same subject. Either the framers of it have used words in a sense very different, indeed, from the ordinary significations attached to them by people in general, or we are woefully and amazingly in error, to say the least, in our views as to the actual condition of the tenant-labourers, and the state of the relations between them and their land-ord-employers. Now we don't care to merely argue a point like this, when we can put the matter plainly before the public in practical operation, and let every one judge for himself. One instance, of recent occurrence, in illustration of the actual working of this "Contract Act" (the Master and Servants Act of 1840, with Mr. Maycock's addendum), will show how it carries, practically, "into effect the reciprocal duties" of the parties in question, what sort of "feeling" it promotes between them, and the amount of "protection," said to be "full and ample," which it affords to the labourer in particular. To obviate, as far as possible, any supposition of unfairness in selecting our illustration, we shall take it from the practice of one of the very gentlemen who were prominent at the meeting at Sandford. We shall make Mr. Joseph Connell, who moved the fourth resolution at the meeting, the expounder of the third, which was carried, like all the rest, "*nem. con.*"

Haiton estate, in the parish of St. Philip, is the property of Mr. John Connell, who is now on a visit to England, his brother, Mr. Joseph Connell, having charge of the property as attorney. On the 5th of July, in the present year, four of the located labourers on the estate, namely, King Hunte, William Shepherd, Richard Parris, and John Daniel, were cited before the police magistrate of the parish, for breach of this Master and Servants Act. Mr. Joseph Connell, in his information taken before the magistrate at the trial, stated the charge to be, that the defendants had absented themselves from work for the whole of the

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previous week. "I gave them 300 cane holes to dig where the lands had been previously subsoiled with the plough for 20 cents, which they refused to do." And Mr. Thomas Bradshaw, the under manager, in his deposition, after stating this refusal of the four defendants to dig 300 cane holes for a day's work for 20 cents, added, "their average work is five days generally per week, at 20 cents." We may state that the magistrate gave judgment against the defendants, and the Assistant Court of Appeal, to whom the case was carried by defendants, confirmed his decision a few days after. And so proud was Mr. Connell of this result, that he sent a copy of the proceedings before the magistrate for publication in the "West Indian," from which paper, of 16th July, the above quotations are made.

Now, at the time when these labourers were required to dig 300 cane holes a day for five days in the week, at 20 cents a day, the common market price of labour for this description of work in the district was at the rate of 10 cents per 100 holes, and some few pushing planters were paying at the rate of 12 cents per 100. We took the trouble, at the time, to inquire particularly as to this. These four labouring men were therefore required, in addition to their rent, to give their labour to the estate for five out of the six working days of the week, at a reduction of just one-third of the common market value of that labour! Fifty cents—two shillings and a penny sterling a week were they required, one and all, to surrender out of their poor incomes! Mr. Connell exacted it—'twas "in the bond," and the law bore him out in the exaction—that law which, we are blandly assured, "is sufficient in itself to carry into effect the reciprocal duties of master and servant;" under which, "since the abolition of slavery, the best of feeling is promoted between employers and employed;" and which affords such "full and ample protection to both parties." We now know exactly what these bland phrases mean in the resolution of the meeting at Sandford; and—need we write another word on the subject?

Despatches from the Secretary of State.

— No. 1. —

(No. 86.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable *H. Labouchere*, M.P.
to Governor *Hincks*.

No. 1.
Right Hon. H.
Labouchere, M.P.
to Governor
Hincks.

22 October 1857.

* Page 31.

Sir,

Downing-street, 22 October 1857.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch, No. 42,* of the 22d of August, in which you lay before me your views on the question of labour in the West Indian Colonies, and on the system of coolie immigration.

I beg to return to you my thanks for your able and interesting Despatch on this important subject.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. Labouchere*.

— No. 2. —

(No. 96.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable *H. Labouchere*, M.P.
to Governor *Hincks*.

No. 2.
Right Hon. H.
Labouchere, M.P.
to Governor
Hincks.

26 Dec. 1857.

† Page 39.

Sir,

Downing-street, 26 December 1857.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch, No. 52,† of the 9th of November, forwarding the copy of a letter from Mr. T. D. Hill, with a petition to the Legislature of Barbados from certain non-resident proprietors in that island, on the subject of improving the condition of the labouring classes; together with a copy of your reply.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. Labouchere*.

— No. 3. —

(No. 97.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable *H. Labouchere*, M.P.
to Governor *Hincks*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 26 December 1857.

I HAVE received your Despatch marked "General,"* of the 9th of November, respecting emigration from the Windward Islands to British Guiana.

Having heard that a law is about to be passed in British Guiana to legalise contracts for three years made out of the Colony with inhabitants of other West Indian Islands, you state that such a law would cause serious discontent among the planters in the Windward Islands; and you observe that, though a free passage may be provided by British Guiana for emigrants from those islands, abuses would occur unless the contracts were authenticated by some officer of the Crown in the place in which they were made.

I annex copies of the 12th and 16th sections of the British Guiana Ordinance, No. 2 of 1848, from which you will perceive that by the existing law of the Colony, planters would be authorised to engage labourers for three years in any of the "Islands of America," but that no such contract would be valid except signed in the presence of a magistrate or notary public.

You will see by the Despatch from the Lieutenant Governor of British Guiana, of which I enclose a copy, that the proposed enactment in British Guiana is merely introduced to remove a doubt (unfounded as it appears to me) respecting the applicability of the existing law, not to introduce any new principle.

The policy of the Home Government on the subject of inter-colonial emigration has hitherto proceeded on a principle in some degree at variance with that suggested by you. The Government has considered that the public money of one Colony could not properly be applied to an emigration supposed to be injurious to another, but has not generally interfered with emigration conducted at the expense of private persons, except so far as it was expedient for the security of the individual emigrants.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. Labouchere*.

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No. 3.
Right Hon. H.
Labouchere, M.P.
to Governor
Hincks.
26 Dec. 1857.
* Page 38.

No. 31,
10 October 1857.
Vide page 11 of
Part I.

— No. 4. —

(No. 8.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable the Lord *Stanley*, M.P.
to Governor *Hincks*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 16 April 1858.

I HAVE had under my consideration your Despatches, Barbados, No. 42† of the 22d August; Grenada, No. 41† of the 9th November; and St. Lucia, No. 57† of the same date, in which you explain the views which you have been led to adopt on the subject of the importation of immigrants into the West Indies.

2. My predecessors profited by the presence of the Governor of British Guiana in this country to obtain from him a statement of his views upon the same subject with reference to those stated by you.

3. The communication from Governor Wodehouse, of which a copy is enclosed, was accordingly received by my predecessor, and was referred, along with your own Despatches and their enclosures, to the Commissioners for Emigration.

4. I enclose herewith a copy of the Report which I have now received from the Commissioners; and I have to express my general concurrence in the views which it expresses.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Stanley*.

No. 4.
Right Hon. Lord
Stanley, M.P. to
Governor *Hincks*,
16 April 1858.

† Pages 31, 71,
and 2.

Enclosure 1.
28 January 1858.

Enclosure 2.
15 March 1858.

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Enclosure 1, in No. 4.

Encl. 1, in No. 4.

Sir,

15, Queen-street, May Fair, 28 January 1858.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your letter of the 23d instant, forwarding for my remarks three Despatches from the Governor of Barbados, on the subject of labour and wages in the West Indies, together with a series of correspondence between that gentleman and the officers administering the Governments of St. Lucia and Grenada.

2. Such a variety of topics, many of them of importance, are discussed in the course of this correspondence, as to render it a matter of considerable difficulty to review them without intruding at too great length upon the Secretary of State. So much mischief might, however, arise from the want of a proper understanding of the matter, that I feel it my duty to enter into explanation upon some of the points raised.

3. Mr. Labouchere will not, I am sure, expect from me a detailed examination of the calculations brought forward by Mr. Hincks as to the comparative cost of cultivation in different Colonies, or even of those relating to the value of the wages paid in each. As regards the former, there are so many circumstances to be taken into account, even in the same Colony, as, for instance, the locality of an estate, its popularity, its salubrity, the skill and industry of its manager (circumstances of which a proprietor cannot be expected to render a true account), that it would be presumptuous for a stranger to pretend to an accurate knowledge of its exact condition.

4. A comparison of the value of wages in different Colonies will be even more uncertain. It appears that in St. Lucia and Grenada the wages are paid by the day, while in British Guiana they are paid almost entirely by the task; and as it is beyond doubt that a labourer of average capacity can without difficulty perform two or even more of these tasks in a fair number of hours, and as the money value of each task exceeds the money value of a day's work in the islands, it would be impossible to determine accurately the comparative gain of the labourer without a full knowledge of all the circumstances bearing upon him, directly and indirectly, in both places; a knowledge which very few if any possess, and which we should waste time in endeavouring to attain to. Indeed it is not a little singular to find Mr. Hincks urging the planters of St. Lucia and Grenada to raise their wages for the purpose of competing with Barbados and British Guiana, when the correspondence shows that with the pre-ent rates the negroes in the first-mentioned island are better off than in Guiana, and better than, for want of space, they possibly can be in Barbados.

5. As I shall have occasion to differ from many of the views put forward by Mr. Hincks in this correspondence, I would in the first instance notice one point upon which, in the main, I agree with him; viz. that it is not right that the planters should be provided with immigrants at the public expense. The consideration of this branch of the subject was by circumstances forced upon me not long after my arrival in British Guiana. The conclusion at which I then arrived, and which I have since seen no reason to depart from, was explained to the Combined Court at the opening of their annual Session of 1855, in the following terms:—

“ I have anxiously weighed this subject and cannot resist the impression, that the time has now arrived when we can no longer defray out of the public revenue any part of the cost of the introduction of immigrants; that that charge must, for the future, be paid directly by the planting interest, and that the general revenue must be required to meet only the liabilities already incurred, and those which may hereafter be incurred for the back passages of immigrants not yet introduced. In short, that for the future the planters must pay for their passage hither, and the Colony for their passage back to their own country.

“ In making this declaration I am prepared for its being viewed at first with apprehension and alarm by the planters; and it might, perhaps, be sufficient for me to urge in its defence the plea of necessity, and of necessity alone; but I am happy to think that in this instance it is not necessary to rest the defence of the proposition altogether upon so unwelcome an argument. My hope and belief is, that the arrangements lately made for the management of the immigrants will, without inflicting the slightest hardship upon them, so much increase the amount of labour to be derived from them, and will consequently so greatly enhance their value as to enable the planter, by means of the assistance which in another shape may still be afforded him, to bear up against the burthen which this plan, if carried out, will cast upon him.

“ I have, therefore, spared no pains in endeavouring to satisfy myself whether the cost of the introduction of the immigrants ought for the future to be defrayed out of a new tax to be imposed upon the planters alone, but upon the planters as a body, or whether the estates to which immigrants may be allotted ought to pay for them in exact proportion to the number they may receive; and the latter appears to me to be the fairer and sounder principle of action.

“ I consider that so much of the cost of immigration as has hitherto been paid out of the public funds, has been, in point of fact, a bonus paid by the community for the production of sugar. It is true that all classes have been content to pay that bonus, in the expectation (which no doubt has been realised) that they would all be benefited by the increase of population; but, nevertheless, seeing that the whole scheme was based upon the distribution

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of immigrants over the sugar estates, the payments must be considered as a bonus upon sugar.

" If this view be correct, it will be admitted that the amount of bonus paid, in the shape of immigrants allotted, ought to have been proportioned, strictly speaking, to the average production of each estate; or, at least, that the claim of every proprietor, if he had wished to obtain immigrants, ought to have been governed by that rule.

" It is hardly necessary for me to inform this Honourable Court, that no such rule (and probably for strong reasons) has governed the actual distribution; but I greatly doubt if the Court are aware of the extreme disproportion which has actually prevailed, and of which I can satisfy them, in the allotment to the several districts. In some they have received during the past years no more than 12 immigrants to every 50 hogsheads of their average annual produce, while in other districts the allotment has reached even to four and five times that number.

" I confess I am altogether unable to arrive at the possibility of establishing, under the existing system, a sound and wholesome scheme of operations. We cannot by means of assistance from the public funds permanently enable a private speculator, disadvantageously situated, to compete successfully with a neighbour, who, from various causes, may be comparatively independent of foreign aid. All are entitled to their fair proportion of assistance from the public, so long as that assistance is given; but it is wrong to encourage the hope that more than that proportion can continuously be rendered to any. At the same time it must be admitted that many proprietors would be much distressed if they were at once required to pay in ready money for the introduction of the immigrants necessary for their operations, and that the immediate abandonment of some estates might be the necessary consequence.

" It is for that reason, and because I consider the prosperity of the planters to be mainly dependent upon the continuance of immigration, and the wellbeing of all classes to be inseparably connected with the prosperity of the planters, that we may, in my opinion, with the greatest propriety, pledge the credit of the Colony in aid of their undertakings. In short, I would recommend this Honourable Court to sanction an arrangement which, I hope, there would be no difficulty in effecting, for raising loans, from year to year, to the amount necessary to pay the expense of introducing the immigrants in each year, upon the understanding that such loans shall be paid off in five or seven years by annual instalments from the estates to which they may be allotted.

" We shall thus obtain the best guarantee for the profitable employment of the immigrant, and shall be prepared to pay, without reluctance, for his back passage out of the general revenue."

The passages here quoted point to the same inequalities and interference with the ordinary course of trade as those which Mr. Hincks considers to encourage persons to open new estates to the detriment of old-established properties; and I conceive that if the cost of the introduction of the immigrants were placed (as it has now nearly been in British Guiana) upon the shoulders of the employers, all his objections on this score would fall to the ground. The employment of immigrants is optional with the planter; and he can calculate whether it is for his interest to pay a higher rate of wages in money to the negroes, if he can get them, rather than to incur the heavy primary outlay for buildings, medical attendance, &c., inseparable under the Government regulations from the reception of immigrants upon his estate; and there are a very few estates in British Guiana from which, I think, no applications for immigrants have been received.

6. In paragraph 7 of his Despatch, No. 42, Mr. Hincks states, " If it could have been fairly proved to the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government that certain West Indian planters were unable to obtain free labour to cultivate estates, established during slavery, I think that expediency might have justified a compliance with their demand for immigrants." This admission is in the case of British Guiana conclusive. We have lost all our cotton, it may be said all our coffee, and after a very heavy outlay for immigration and improved machinery, the sugar crop has but just reached that of the time of emancipation. Numerous sugar estates have been abandoned, and I cannot at this moment recollect one which has been brought back into a state of cultivation. In St. Lucia and Grenada Mr. Hincks seems to look for a considerable extent of new cultivation; but he does not show any ground for this anticipation, while in the case of St. Lucia it is to be inferred, from the limited number of immigrants applied for, 501, that nothing of the kind is in contemplation. Throughout the correspondence Mr. Hincks appears unable to view the subject in any other light than that in which it could present itself to a Barbadian planter. He draws a strong contrast between the conduct of the planters of St. Lucia and the extreme liberality of the Barbadians to the negroes; but he leaves it very difficult to discover in what the St. Lucians fall short, and in no way explains why, in opposition to all experience of the human race, the Barbadian planter should act with wonderful liberality to those who are altogether at his mercy. He puts out of sight the fact, that the Barbadian planter started from the time of emancipation, with a population nearly, if not quite unequalled on the globe, without perhaps an inch of unowned or unemployed land, with a consequent power of carrying out almost at their pleasure the arrangements necessary for cultivating their estates, and with a Legislature which up to this hour has undergone scarcely any of the changes to which the Legislatures of the other Colonies have been subjected. He appears to think that higher

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wages would tempt the people of Barbados to the other islands, and sets little value upon the attachment of every human being to his own country—an attachment which even in the case of the white population of Barbados has become almost proverbial throughout the West Indies.

7. The following is the 48th para. of Mr. Hincks's letter to Mr. Kortright, of the 7th August 1857: "Unfortunately the opinion has become but too prevalent in the Southern States of America, not only that free labour is less economical than slave labour, but that an emancipated negro is unwilling to work for hire. This opinion is grounded on the statements made by the West India planters. The fact is, that the free labourer in the West Indies simply endeavoured to obtain a just equivalent for his labour, and has turned it to the best account in his power." The whole question hinges upon this point. When I first went to the West Indies, and became acquainted with Jamaica, I was inclined to take the same view, and to consider the labourers as excessively underpaid. But I am constrained to state, after some years' study of the subject, and after living in the Colony in which confessedly the highest wages are paid, "that an emancipated negro is unwilling to work for hire," and that he has not "simply endeavoured to obtain a just equivalent for his labour." He is unwilling to work continuously; and the greater the "equivalent" he gets for his labour, the less can he be depended upon to perform that labour with regularity. From all that I have learned the negroes of British Guiana were never in such a state of prosperity, or in possession of such means as at the termination of the apprenticeship, when they had been for some time regularly employed for regular wages. They then formed associations and purchased estates, to be divided into villages, for 3,000 £, 5,000 £, even up to 15,000 £. The money is gone; the result is most miserable. At this day no amount of wages will induce the negro labourer to enter into an agreement for a term; and it is the uncertainty of his actions which so much embarrasses the planter; whatever may be the number of labourers at work on a given day, the other expenses are nearly the same. The interest of money, the pay of managers, overseers, &c., the keep of animals, all run on at the same rate. It is in the removal of this waste and uncertainty that the chief value of immigrant labour consists. It is true that the coolies are generally very idle, that the contract is a very easy one, and that the coolies do not perform two-thirds of the work required by it; but nevertheless the proprietor can, in any emergency, rely upon his indentured immigrants to avert any threatened evil, and to prevent the operations on the estate from being brought to a stand. Every practical planter can estimate the loss inseparable from the compulsory suspension of any work, manufacturing or agricultural, and can therefore estimate the value of the protection from such suspension afforded by the indentures of the immigrants. Mr. Hincks cannot reconcile himself to the idea of giving better remuneration to the immigrants than to the negroes; but he would very probably find the planters willing to give quite as good terms to the latter, if they on their part would give any security for, or even become bound for the performance of continuous labour for terms, limited indeed, but sufficient to ensure a certain amount of regularity.

8. It is true that the system of indentures, as connected with immigration, is in itself temporary. When they cease I do not think that greater dependence can be placed upon the Indian coolie for the voluntary performance of continuous labour than upon the negro. I do not urge it as a matter of reproach against the two races, but my belief is that the consumption of the world calls for a greater supply of tropical products than those two races can without compulsion be induced to cultivate; and I think that the ultimate issue of the struggle between slave labour and free labour will depend upon our ability to introduce into our Colonies a sufficient number of some race or races of people capable of performing agricultural labour in a tropical climate, and at the same time by nature so industrious as to work regularly without compulsion. In British Guiana we have already introduced, but in limited numbers, two races apparently possessing these qualifications, the Portuguese from Madeira and the Chinese. It is impossible to overrate the industry and enterprise of the former, or the benefits which the Colony has derived from their introduction. Indeed, so alive has the Legislature of the Colony become to this fact, that in the course of last year it was determined that the cost of their passages from Madeira should be paid out of the public revenue, and that they should not be required to enter into any indentures. Of the Chinese we have, unfortunately, but very few. Their employers, however, speak in the highest terms of them, as giving no trouble, and working regularly and industriously throughout the year. Most people now consider the future prosperity of the Colony to depend mainly upon a large and continuous introduction of this race.

9. Mr. Hincks takes political objections to Indian immigration, and thinks that the Government will have trouble in suppressing the disturbances which will arise out of the jealousies between the negroes and the coolies. We have not yet seen anything of the kind in Guiana; the two races do not associate, but they do not quarrel, and the records of the magistrates will show that assaults are generally committed by people of the same race as the sufferers. I do not deny that the case is very different in respect to the Portuguese, in dealing with whom the negro at once perceives his own inferiority. But supposing that there be in the minds of the negroes, whose fathers were imported as slaves, a confused idea that the country belongs to them, and supposing that they really dislike immigration, as tending to prevent them from making any demand they may wish, it cannot be our duty to yield to such absurdities, or to abstain from making all just efforts to obtain the means of turning our property to account in the most economical manner. And looking at the question in a public

public point of view, my own opinion is that the greater the admixture of races, with the greater safety will they be governed by us.

In conclusion, I must express my regret that my views should be so strongly opposed to those of the Governor of Barbados; but I trust Mr. Labouchere will admit that the arguments I have now made use of are in unison with those which on previous occasions I have had to bring under his consideration.

I have, &c.
(signed) *P. E. Wodehouse.*

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Enclosure 2, in No. 4.

Encl. 2, in No. 4.

Sir,

Emigration Office, 15 March 1858.

WE have to acknowledge your letter of the 1st ultimo, enclosing three Despatches from the Governor of the Windward Islands, and a letter from Mr. Wodehouse, the Governor of British Guiana, respecting coolie immigration.

2. The first of Mr. Hincks's Despatches (Barbadoes, 22d of August 1857) impugns the general policy of conducting coolie immigration at the public expense; the second (St. Lucia, 9th of November 1857) and the third (Grenada, 9th November 1857) have for their immediate object to supply for the use of the Emigration Agents in India certain information respecting the advantages offered to coolie emigrants in St. Lucia and Grenada; but they are principally occupied in discussing the prior question, whether immigration into these Colonies ought to be authorised.

3. Mr. Wodehouse's letter is intended to answer the arguments adduced by Mr. Hincks against coolie immigration.

4. We propose first, to state the substance of Mr. Hincks's objections to coolie immigration into the West Indies, and particularly the Windward Islands; and then to report on those objections, making use, as occasion serves, of Mr. Wodehouse's letter, and of the communications from the Lieutenant Governors of St. Lucia and Grenada, which are enclosed in Governor Hincks's Despatches. The length of this report will, we hope, be excused by the importance of the question which is raised, and by the circumstance that in bringing it under Lord Stanley's consideration, we do not know what points we are at liberty to take for granted.

5. Governor Hincks's objections to coolie immigration in general, are principally contained in his first Despatch, and with some alterations of arrangement may be stated as follows:—

(I.) This emigration is viewed by foreign nations as a "mitigated slavery;" and by adopting it, we are considered to admit that slave labour is cheaper than free, and that negroes are unwilling to work. Such admissions are mischievous as deterring other countries from following the example of emancipation, and they are shown to be untrue by the experience of Barbados.

(II.) The introduction of coolies for the purpose of underbidding creoles in the labour-market, is likely to produce alarming animosities of race, especially if the cost of immigration is thrown on those whose wages it is intended to reduce.

(III.) It diverts the creole from the cultivation of the cane, thus injuring the native labourer, and displacing a permanent labouring population by one that is temporary.

(IV.) It is used not merely to keep in cultivation old estates (which might be reasonable), but to bring into cultivation virgin soils to the injury of persons interested in old estates and old Colonies, who have a right "so far as it is not carried on strictly at the expense of the parties requiring the labour," to complain of it as protective.

(V.) It exposes the cultivation which it supports to the chance of total ruin on any stoppage of the supply of imported labour, and this without effecting the object of the immigration, since that supply increases less rapidly than the demand.

(VI.) The cost is enormous; and being defrayed by public loans, charged, in part at least, on the general revenue, overwhelms the Colony with debt, without making itself effectively felt as a check on waste.

(VII.) It was accompanied in 1856-7 by an alarming mortality on the passage.

6. Having stated these general objections to coolie immigration, Mr. Hincks proceeds to argue, first, that in Barbados sugar may be produced more cheaply now than in the times of slavery; and next, that this is owing, not to the density of the population in that island, but to the more skilful and economical management of estates, and particularly to the more judicious and liberal treatment of the creole population.

7. The two subsequent Despatches pursue the last subject touched on in the first. Mr. Hincks considers that the real object of this immigration into St. Lucia and Grenada is not to increase the number of labourers, but to keep down wages, and he argues that these islands are in difficulties, not because labour is deficient, but because employers are unskilful and illiberal.

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8. In support of these positions, he states, first, that the population is evidently sufficient for the cultivation of the estates, and, next, that wages are no higher, and the actual cost of the labour employed in manufacturing 100 lbs. of sugar is less in these islands than in Barbados. And he considers that the creole labourers would never have quitted the sugar estates, and might in some degree be recalled to them, if the management were assimilated to that of Barbados. With a view to this assimilation, he makes the following suggestions.

9. The use of a cottage and garden (held at will) now forms an element in wages. To this confusion Mr. Hincks ascribes a great part of the misfortunes of the West Indies. Wages and rent should be clearly separated; the former should be raised, say, from 10 *d.* to 1 *s.* 3 *d.* or 1 *s.* 6 *d.* a day, should be paid weekly instead of monthly, and when possible by the job or task. Land should be let for a fair rent and a long period; and the small creole proprietors or lessees should be encouraged to grow sugar on their land, bringing it to be manufactured at the mill of their employer, who should, as in Barbados, give the use of his machinery in return for one-third of the produce. These little proprietors would collect round the sugar mill and form a body of labourers equal to the planter's wants.

10. Before proceeding to the discussion of Mr. Hincks's Despatches, it may be convenient to explain in some degree the nature, extent, and general consequences of that emigration against the continuance of which his arguments are directed.

11. The Colonies largely affected by it are Mauritius, British Guiana, and Trinidad. It was commenced by the planters of Mauritius in 1835 or 1836, to supply the place of the creoles, who were rapidly abandoning field-work (*vide* Parl. Paper, 28 May 1840, page 194). But in consequence of certain abuses practised by these private importers, and for other reasons, the emigration was suspended in 1838, and in 1843 was taken into the hands of Government, by whom it has since been conducted. The result has been that from 1834 to 1856 inclusive, upwards of 170,000 souls have been introduced into the colony, of whom and of their children there were still resident, in 1856, as many as 102,825 males and 31,446 females, in all, 134,271 persons. The effect on the production of the Colony has been enormous. In 1844 the sugar crop is said to have been about 70 millions of pounds; since that date it has never been less than 100 millions; in 1852 it exceeded 180 millions; and in 1855 it amounted to 228,480,000 pounds.

12. The operations which have thus trebled the production of Mauritius have not failed to confer on the population concerned in it the advantages naturally consequent on a rapidly increasing production.

13. On their arrival in the Colony immigrants are bound to enter into indentures for three years, with the obligation of serving for two more years a master of their own choosing, or redeeming that period at the rate of 1 *l.* 12 *s.* per annum. On making this payment or completing five years' service, they may return to India, paying the cost of their own back passage, which is about 1 *l.*

14. The rate of wages before a recent stoppage of immigration averaged about 13 *s.* a month, besides food and lodging. That stoppage raised it in a few months to 17 *s.*, but at all times they have been able to lay by much money. "In 1849," (we quote from a previous report of our own,) "Mr. Caird considered that, with the slightest regard to prudence, a common labourer could easily save 200 or 250 rupees in the five years, and stated, as a well known fact, that three-fourths of those who returned to India brought with them sums of from 50 to 1,200 rupees each. About the same time (February 15th, 1850), Sir G. Anderson, formerly a judge in India, after searching inquiry, expressed his opinion in the following terms:—'I do not mean to say that we have not cases where difficulties are raised and justice sought to be evaded. It would not be human nature were it not so; but I mean to say, as a whole, the Indian is well protected, and, as a whole, he is justly treated; and, as a labouring population, perhaps nowhere in the world is in such favourable circumstances. He is well and certainly fed, he is clothed, he is lodged, he has good pay, he is cheerful, he is healthy, and, with the savings of his pay, looks at the end of his term of residence to return to his home with what to him is wealth.'

"About the same time (16th May 1850), the Protector of Immigrants at Madras, an officer disposed to scrutinise very jealously the results of emigration from India, declared that the return emigrants who had brought back considerable sums of money, proclaimed the good treatment and liberality which they experienced in the Colony, and that emigration to Mauritius was held in such favour with the labouring classes that there could be no difficulty in obtaining the number of coolies then required by the Mauritius Government; and it is important to add, that when the prosperity of the producing classes was so severely tried by the failures of the great Mauritius houses in 1848, the labourer's wages were (except in a very few cases) duly paid, and the sugar cultivation immediately recovered the check."

15. Into British Guiana, about 23,000 coolies have been introduced on terms similar to those in force in Mauritius, except that the rate at which service may be redeemed is higher, and that they receive back passages to India at the expense of the Colony after 10 years of indentured service. They do not, as in Mauritius, compose the whole of the agricultural population, but they form a most important part of it, and have materially assisted in raising the sugar crop from 34,199 hogsheads in 1841 to 55,366 hogsheads in 1855. Work is done by the task, and wages therefore vary according to the strength of a labourer; but a strong man

man can apparently earn but little less than a dollar by 10 hours' steady work. The coolies, two years ago, held nearly 40,000 dollars in the Guiana Savings Bank, and those who return to India carry back with them large sums of money. In the last ship which left British Guiana (the "Hamilla Mitchell"), 277 coolies paid into the hands of the authorities for transmission to India, 6,033 l. 6 s. 7 d.

16. Into Trinidad about 11,000 coolies have been introduced; and it appears from a report of the Committee of Council that upwards of 7,000 of these persons were employed upon the crop of 1857, while out of 30,000 or 40,000 creoles and Africans less than 6,000 continued to work for wages in the growth and manufacture of staple products. The advantages enjoyed by the coolie in wages are not much inferior to those which he receives in British Guiana. "Any labourer," (writes Mr. Keate), "with ordinary industry, can earn 2 s. a day in addition to house room, garden, and medical attendance." And he observes incidentally, that the competition for labour existing in the Colony renders any attempt to secure continuous labour by punishment (which had been suggested by Mr. Caird) quite futile. Planters attempt to effect this object not by enforcing penalties for breach of contract, but by paying men who work regularly something beyond the usual rate of wages. In the last return coolie ship from Trinidad, 343 coolies deposited with the authorities 5,389 l. 5 s. 5 d., and took on their persons more than 900 l.

17. A few thousand Indians were introduced into Jamaica before 1848, and about 300 into Grenada during last year; but to these it is unnecessary to refer, as we have described the results of the larger immigration into Trinidad, British Guiana, and above all Mauritius. The result of these is, that about 200,000 persons have left countries in which labour is worth 3 d. or 4 d. a day; where famines occasionally occur; where impressment and forced labour exist; where a corrupt and oppressive body of native police are, or were till very recently, interposed between the labouring population and the European magistracy, and where an eminent officer of Government describes the strong as universally preying upon the weak, for other countries in which easy labour will secure comparative affluence; where the conditions of society enable the labourer to dictate to his employer; where he lives under British law, and where he has at all times easy access to a British magistrate, and generally to an officer appointed for the special purpose of securing him his rights.

18. This result appears to us in itself a happy one; but it becomes doubly satisfactory if recognised as the healthy and natural consequence of that commercial necessity which leads capital to employ itself in transferring masses of population from places where they are ill off to places where they will be well off, and therefore as likely not only to continue but to increase.

19. This general view of the subject supplies, as it appears to us, a direct answer to much that is urged by Mr. Hincks.

20. If coolie immigration is what we have described, it is no subject of regret, but the contrary, that the supply of immigrants does but intensify the demand for them; that Colonies which have employed coolie labour are eager for a larger supply; that those who have not hitherto employed it are anxious to do so; and that operations originally intended to support sinking properties are extended to the cultivation of virgin soils. It will, however, be better to treat Mr. Hincks's objections in order.

21. (1) We are not aware of the evidence on which he states that this immigration is viewed as a "mitigated slavery" by foreign nations; we hope, however, that we have said enough to show that it cannot be justly so viewed. The engagement into which the Indian enters on leaving his country is voluntary, and imposes upon him no other obligation than that of performing, during the period of his expatriation, a fixed and by no means extravagant amount of daily labour at high wages, and for employers chosen (except during the first three years) by himself. The penalties by which this voluntary engagement are enforced are not oppressive, being confined to the loss of his return passage, or rather the obligation to contribute towards it; to small forfeitures, and to short imprisonments; and the principal restriction imposed on him is, that on working days he may be apprehended by the police if found more than two miles from the estate on which he is bound to work, without a written letter of leave from his employer. This provision we may add (directed of course against vagrancy and desertion) was not sanctioned by the Home Government till experience made it clear that it was for the true interest of the coolie, as well as his employer; and in reporting on it (7 March 1851, Parl. Paper, 624, of 1851, page 213), Sir H. Barkly observed, "that in practice no manager of an estate would dare to incur the unpopularity of stopping an immigrant at whatever distance he might find him from the estate, unless he felt quite sure that his intention was to absent himself altogether."

22. It is of course possible to describe as mitigated slavery any dependency of one man on another, which in the opinion of the speaker is excessive; but we are unable to perceive, in the coolie's contract, or in the laws by which that contract is enforced, any provision or aggregate of provisions which, either in principle or in degree, depresses his condition below that of healthy servitude, or which are incompatible with those legitimate hopes, occupations, or enjoyments which are natural to a free Asiatic labourer.

23. The contrivance of assisting labourers to emigrate on condition that they would repay the cost of their passage by labour, has been tried with English labourers, and was dis-

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continued, not from any doubt of the advantages which it conferred on the emigrants, but because it was found impracticable to enforce on them the performance of their contracts.

24. And if it is true that coolie labour is not only free labour, but prosperous and well-paid free labour, it follows that its application to the manufacture of sugar may be alleged, and will sooner or later be recognised, not as admitting the failure of free labour, but as illustrating its success.

25. (2) On the animosities of race which Mr. Hincks anticipates from the juxtaposition of coolies and creoles, we have little to add to the observations (which appear to us to deserve great weight) contained in the 9th paragraph of Mr. Wodehouse's letter. It is clear that 12 years' immigration has not, in fact, produced the irritation which Mr. Hincks anticipates, and we do not observe any special reason for apprehending it. Until the creole contracts an inclination for field-work, it seems improbable that he should resent an immigration of field labourers; and we may perhaps point out that the disunion between Asiatics and Africans may have political advantages as well as disadvantages in countries which are governed by Europeans.

26. We concur, however, with Mr. Hincks and Mr. Wodehouse in considering that immigration should be paid for by those who profit by it, both as a matter of fairness to the labouring population, and also because, as implied by Mr. Hincks, the circumstance that the same persons who reap the benefits of any operation will pay for its expenses, and will thus be compelled to balance fairly the one against the other, furnishes the most legitimate security against ill-judged expenditure. The immigration may be continued, though ever so demonstrably wasteful, if the members of the Legislature profit by it, but the population pay for it.

27. If it were possible to leave immigration to find its own level on mere principles of free trade, we should have little hesitation in recommending a firm enforcement of this rule; but this is not possible. It would involve the admission of private agents to collect labourers wherever they could get them; the legalisation of contracts for such periods of time, and with such conditions as these agents could persuade ignorant Asiatics and Africans to accept, and the discontinuance, to a great extent, of female immigration. If, however, the Government interferes, as it does interfere, to take out of the hands of the planter the collection and shipment of emigrants; to limit the duration of contracts; to prescribe terms of service; to license emigrant ships, and generally to prohibit, on account of liability to abuse, such modes of operation as the private importer, if left to himself, might adopt, it becomes difficult, both in practice and in equity, to enforce the strict rule, that he who benefits by the emigrant shall pay for his introduction.

28. It must also be remembered that a properly-regulated immigration, by increasing the importance of the Colony, and retaining in it the white population, is an advantage to the whole tax-paying community; and, under the peculiar circumstances of the case, it is not perhaps wholly unreasonable to require the emancipated and prosperous creoles to contribute towards operations calculated in some degree to indemnify their old employers against the losses resulting from emancipation.

29. It appears to us, therefore, that the apportionment of the expense of coolie immigration among those who directly benefit by it, is rather a principle to be steadily kept in view (which we apprehend it is) than a rule to be inflexibly enforced.

30. The allegation that immigration forces the creole from field-labour we shall discuss in connexion with Mr. Hincks's remarks on St. Lucia and Grenada.

31. The fact that it is applied to bring into cultivation virgin soils we have already stated to be in our view no subject of regret, but the contrary. If sugar can be grown cheaper in younger Colonies and on virgin soils than in old Colonies and on existing estates, the inhabitants of those younger Colonies and the owners of those virgin soils should have every facility given them for cheapening and increasing their production. Viewed as a question between Colonies, the planters of Barbados have no right to complain that the Legislature of Grenada expends its own revenue in the manner most calculated to develop the resources of its own territory. Viewed as a question between proprietors, the owner of an old estate in an importing Colony is benefited as much by the immigration as his neighbour who is bringing into cultivation a new one. As between the planter and the tax-payer, we have already admitted that the case is different, and that the application of taxes raised from the whole community to the conduct of coolie immigration must be justified, if at all, as an exception to the strict commercial rules of free trade.

32. The risk that the supply of foreign labour, and with it the operations commenced in anticipation of that supply, may be suddenly stopped, is the planters' own; and they should be the best judges whether it is orth their while to incur that risk. In the present case there is strong reason for supposing that it is worth their while. The example of Mauritius is in the highest degree encouraging, and that of British Guiana is considered so by those who are most interested in forming a sound opinion.

33. The expense of the immigration is certainly large. Including the cost of return passages (when claimed), and of introducing women and children, it may amount to 25 £. or 30 £. for every ten years' service. This perhaps may be viewed as equivalent to an increase of 3 d. a day on the wages; but considering how much the planters are at the
mercy

mercy of the creole labourers, men shrewd enough to understand their advantage, but not sufficiently far-sighted to see the ultimate risk of ruining their employers by pushing it too far, it is easy to believe that the services of a reliable body of labourers are worth this price; certainly the colonists appear to think them so.

34. The loans from which Mr. Hincks anticipates so much evil are, we believe, where they have been contracted, in steady course of repayment by annual contributions to a sinking fund. But we have already implied that we should consider it highly desirable on the one hand to make the cost of these operations felt sensibly by those who profit by them, and on the other to give them as much share in the conduct of the immigration as is consistent with the safety of the immigrant.

35. The mortality of 1856-7 was in the emigration from Calcutta, which, from local causes, is always more or less unhealthy. It was very lamentable, but was exceptional, and its causes are now under investigation by the Bengal Government.

36. We have now, we believe, treated of all Mr. Hincks' objections to coolie emigration in general. His objections to that immigration, as applied to St. Lucia and Grenada, are, that it is not really wanted to supply a deficiency in labour, but to keep down wages; and that the colonists have driven the creoles from their estates by bad management, and should attract them back by the offer of larger advantages. This opinion he founds on the contrast between these Colonies and Barbados.

37. That the population of these islands is sufficient to support the existing cultivation if they would apply their labour to it, is sufficiently probable. But it appears to us that the clear and coincident statements of Mr. Breen and Mr. Kortright, who have practical knowledge of the state of society in their respective governments, leave little hopes that the recommendations of Governor Hincks, however excellent in themselves, would effect the object with which he proposes them.

38. These statements corroborate each other, and are, we apprehend, corroborated by the known history of other parts of the West Indies. Mr. Breen and Mr. Kortright describe the growth of an independent proprietary, cultivating land which they have bought, exporting produce to Trinidad, turning their attention as prices rise to the growth of sugar, fishing, shooting, satisfying all their tastes in the manner most congenial to them, and thwarting the management of a Barbados proprietor, by their independent habits and bearing; and they ask whether it is likely that these persons will be induced to exchange a life which suits them so well for the drudgery of plantation labour on any terms which the planters could prudently offer. It is not merely that they are averse from labouring for wages, but that they have the best reason for their aversion, namely, that they can do better for themselves.

39. Those who prefer idleness to the fruits of labour cannot, of course, be induced to work by any wages. Those who have the spirit to work are likely to prefer the condition of small proprietor to that of hired servant, and certainly cannot be blamed for doing so; but neither, on the other hand, can we see any ground for complaining that they are forced from sugar cultivation, or for arresting the efforts of the proprietary to supply the place which it suits them to abandon.

40. The fact that wages are as high in Barbados as in Grenada or St. Lucia, does not appear to us to indicate much; for it appears evident that the dense population of the former island, if it does not lower the price of a day's work, enables the proprietor to require (what is much more important) that it shall be regular and effective. The calculation which shows that more labour is expended on manufacturing a given amount of sugar in Barbados than in Grenada is more material; but we cannot think that comparisons of this kind, to which more or less of uncertainty must always attach, justify the Government in disregarding allegations of actual pressing inconvenience, made by those who are suffering from it, and of which the results are found in the abandonment of estates. (Mr. Walker's Supplementary Despatch accompanying Blue Book, June 25, 1856.)

41. Nor, lastly, does it appear to us that the differences of management pointed out by Mr. Hincks are the readiest mode of accounting for the command of labour which the Barbadian planter undoubtedly possesses.

42. It is true that the labourers' land and cottages are held at will in St. Lucia, but so are they at Barbados. Ordinary wages do not exceed 10 *d.* a day either in one Colony or in the other. Small proprietors pay more in St. Lucia and Grenada for having their produce manufactured, but it is alleged that they get a proportional amount of assistance; and whether or not this is strictly true, the planters may well apprehend that in Colonies where rich land is abundant, Governor Hincks's policy would result in throwing the growth of sugar entirely into the hands of these small proprietors, and confining the planters' operations to its manufacture—a consequence which they can hardly be expected to contemplate with much complacency.

43. The weekly payment of wages, the adoption of taskwork, and the visible separation of wages from rent, are the other desiderata in the smaller Windward Islands. But admitting the need of these improvements, we cannot think that it tends to shake the received notion that Barbados owes its comparative prosperity to its dense population, or to show that St. Lucia and Grenada would not be benefited by increasing theirs.

44. It appears to us, on the whole, that there is no reason to doubt that coolie immigration is beneficial to the West India proprietors and the coolie immigrants themselves, and that it therefore ought to be encouraged, so long as those who reap its benefits find it worth while to pay for it. Nor do we see any reason for refusing to St. Lucia or Grenada a share in the benefits of the emigration, if they can procure it.

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45. But, recurring to the inquiry which has elicited this discussion, it appears to us exceedingly doubtful whether the Windward Islands will be able to obtain coolie immigrants, while the wages which they offer (from 10 *d.* to 1 *s.* 4 *d.* per day) are so much below what is obtainable in British Guiana or Trinidad.

Sub-Enclosure.

46. On this point we would propose to forward to the Acting Emigration Agent at Calcutta the information respecting the labourers' advantages in St. Lucia and Grenada, which are contained in the annexed extracts from the Despatches of Mr. Breen and Mr. Kortright, and to direct him to report whether it is likely that Indian labourers will be willing to emigrate on these terms, with a full understanding of their import, and if not, to inform us without delay whether they might be induced to do so by any bonus paid to them in hand, or by any reasonable reduction of the period after which a free return passage would be given them.

47. If this course is taken, the Lieutenant Governors of St. Lucia and Grenada should be so informed, in order that they may make up their minds whether the Emigration Agent should be authorised, if necessary, to take any such exceptional means as we have indicated for effecting the commencement of emigration, and the Lieutenant Governor of St. Lucia should, of course, be directed to allot such immigrants as may reach the island to those planters who are ready to give the rate of wages mentioned in the enclosure to his Despatch of 17th October 1857.

48. Without doubting that some of Governor Hincks's proposals respecting the management of estates in the Windward Islands might be advantageously adopted, we are inclined to doubt whether any good purpose would be answered by any suggestions from the Home Government on points of which the colonists will not unnaturally consider themselves the best judges.

49. We have not attempted to inquire whether and under what conditions slave labour is cheaper than free, because, on our view of the subject, the propriety of coolie immigration does not depend on this question, but on its positive results in relation to the wellbeing of the immigrants and the prosperity of the planters. We have therefore refrained from troubling Lord Stanley with any observations on a subject on which we do not feel that we have any peculiar means of forming a judgment.

50. We may, however, observe, that Mr. Hincks's Despatches, though they furnish strong ground for believing that sugar is grown more cheaply in Barbados now than under slavery, appear to us to furnish very scanty means for forming a judgment on the points which are really material to the question now at issue. That question is, whether immigration is required in order to enable free labour in the majority of the West Indian Islands to compete with that of slaves; and if this question is to be decided by an inquiry into the expense of growing, the points to be examined appear to us to be the following:

1st, What is now the cost of producing sugar on a well-managed estate, cultivated by slaves, say in Cuba? and, 2d, What is now the cost of producing sugar by free labour on an estate equally well managed and equally fertile, where population is scanty, land plentiful, and no immigration under indenture allowed?

51. But on these two questions Mr. Hincks's Despatches appear to us to furnish very scanty guidance.

Herman Merivale, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

We have, &c.
T. W. C. Murdoch.
Frederic Rogers

Sub-Enclosure in Enclosure No. 2.

STATEMENT of Wages and other Advantages obtainable by Coolie Immigrants in St. Lucia and Grenada.

ST. LUCIA.

THE wages which will be given to immigrants on their arrival are 10 *d.* a day for women, and for men 1 *s.* 4 *d.*, if employed in the mill or boiling-house, and 1 *s.* a day if not so employed.

EXTRACT from Mr. Breen's Despatch of 3d August 1857, to the Governor of the Windward Islands.

"The price of necessaries is less subject to fluctuation. Upon this point the annexed Table may be relied on as correct. I should add, however, that in the circumstances of St. Lucia, owing to the extensive provision grounds attached to the different estates, and to the waste land, whether belonging to the Crown or to vacant successions, which an industrious labourer may easily convert into provision grounds, the question as to the price of necessaries, especially as regards the articles of food, presents but little difficulty. Another advantage in this respect is derived from the great abundance of fish. On this question I have received from the stipendiary magistrate of the first district a communication containing some interesting particulars, extract of which is herewith enclosed.

"PRICES

" PRICES OF NECESSARIES.

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	s.	d.		s.	d.
Wheat flour, per pint - - - -	11		Milk, per pint - - - -	1½	
Corn flour - - - -	7		Coffee, per pound - - - -	1	1
Cassana farina, per pat - - - -	5		Sugar, per pound - - - -	6	
Fresh beef, per pound - - - -	8		Salt, per quart - - - -	4½	
Salt beef - " - - - -	11		Tobacco, per pound - - - -	1	5
Salt pork - " - - - -	11		Rum, per bottle (French) - - - -	10	
Fresh pork - " - - - -	8		Oznaburghs, per yard - - - -	5	
Mutton - " - - - -	8		Cotton - " - - - -	4½	
Salt fish - " - - - -	3		Linen - " - - - -	10	
Fresh fish - " - - - -	4		Checks - " - - - -	6	
Lard - " - - - -	1	4	Prints - " - - - -	8	
Butter - " - - - -	1	10	Shirts - " - - - -	1	10
Rice, per pot - - - -	1	3	Trousers - " - - - -	1	8
Olive oil, per bottle - - - -	1	6	Hats - " - - - -	1	6
Candles, per pound - - - -	1	-	Shoes - " - - - -	6	-"
Soap - " - - - -	6				

EXTRACT of Letter from Mr. Stipendiary Magistrate *Jennings* to Lieutenant Governor *Kortright*, dated 29th July 1857.

"Having given the information immediately called for, I trust your Excellency will not consider the following observations out of place, and which I forward, as it appears to be your Excellency's desire to ascertain the means a coolie when introduced into the Colony would have at his disposal for benefiting himself.

"The money wages of the labourers in St. Lucia must be considered as only a part payment for their work; for there is not an estate in this district where there are not large quantities of uncultivated land which the labourers working on the estates are permitted to cultivate at pleasure; they are also permitted to keep stock, and many of them, by the means of their gardens, horses, cows and pigs, more than double the amount of their money wages.

"A proof of the great ease with which a labourer in St. Lucia may not only live well, but amass considerable sums of money, is shown by the present condition of numbers of the African immigrants imported into the island in 1849-50. Many of these people are now proprietors of from three to ten acres of fine rich soil, where they keep horses, cows, pigs, &c., in several instances to the number of 12 to 14 heads. Many of the immigrants, to my certain knowledge, were owners of a horse, or one or two cows, before they had been a year relieved from their contracts.

"Fish is so abundant, and so easily caught, that a labourer must be more than lazy if he cannot, on almost any evening after he has finished his work, when employed in the field, and should he not go to his garden, contrive to catch enough for the use of himself and family. Crabs, of which the labourers make free use, are obtainable by any one who chooses to look for them.

"Game is also very easily obtained, and affords a source of income to many an industrious man.

"In consequence of the foregoing facilities, the agricultural labourer spends very little for his food, except salt fish and salt pork (with the latter he seasons his pot of vegetables), his garden providing him with esculents, and his gun or rod with flesh, for which, however, he cares little, except on Sundays, when he generally indulges himself with a small portion of butcher's meat."

GRENADA.

EXTRACTS from Mr. *Kortright's* Despatch of the 7th of August to Governor-in-Chief of Windward Islands.

"In stating the rate of wages in Grenada at 10 *d.* per diem, it appears to have escaped Mr. Caird's notice that Mr. Walker's Despatch of the 6th October 1856, to which he refers in his letter, shows that, in addition to 10 *d.* per diem, the coolie is entitled to provision grounds of at least one acre. This offers to an industrious man an opportunity of bettering his condition to a considerable extent.

"The system of taskwork has long been in operation among the native labourers in the island; and when the capabilities of the coolies for labour have become better known here, it will, I have every reason to believe, be extended to them. The creole labourer frequently finishes his task by noon, and generally refuses to undertake a second one, devoting the rest of the day to the cultivation of his own provision ground. It is thus in the power of an industrious man to double his daily wages by a little exertion.

"It appears to me that under the task system the coolie will be placed in a better position than he is in the Mauritius, where his net gain in wages is confessedly only 2 *s.* 6 *d.* a week, without apparently an opportunity being afforded him of increasing the amount by additional labour.

"There are several advantages this island possesses which appear trifling, but which, nevertheless,

BARBADOS.

nevertheless, tend to the comfort of the labourers. Accessibility of markets for the purchase or sale of provisions, the low price of ground provisions, and the abundance of running water, a free use of which I believe the coolies consider of great importance."

EXTRACT from Mr. Kortright's Despatch of 22d October 1857 (No. 61), to Governor of Windward Islands.

"I am still, however, under the impression that with the advantages possessed by the Indian labourer in Grenada, among which I do not reckon as the least the proverbial healthiness of the island, in consequence of which very few days are lost to the labourer by sickness, he will at the termination of his contract of service have saved more money than in some of the larger Colonies. Ground provisions, such as yams, sweet potatoes, &c. are easily produced, and it is found that the coolie soon acquires a taste for this description of food. An arrangement has been made with the employers by which the labourers are supplied with the articles of consumption to which they are accustomed at cost price, rice at 2½ d. per pound, peas at 2½ d. per pound, flour (wheat or corn) at 3 d. per pound, and salt fish at 3 d. The Immigration Agent, Mr. Cockburn, remarks, 'I have reason to believe that already they (the coolies) are saving money, as several have stated their wish to deposit part of their earnings with me.'"

— No. 5. —

No. 5.
Right Hon. Sir
E. B. Lytton, Bart.
M.P. to Governor
Hincks.
17 Sept. 1858.

(No. 18.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart. M.P. to Governor Hincks.

Sir,

Downing-street, 17 September 1858.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 10th July, General, No. 3,* in further explanation of your views on the important question of the immigration of labourers into the West India Colonies.

I feel it undesirable to prolong a controversy on general questions which will naturally admit of different opinions, and I therefore do not propose, after the communication I am now making, to pursue the correspondence further; but I think it right to put you in possession of the remarks which have been suggested to the Commissioners by your Despatch. I therefore enclose a copy of a report which I called upon them to furnish on the subject.

I have to request that you will give effect to the suggestion of the Emigration Commissioners, that the Immigration Agents in St. Lucia and Grenada should be instructed to make inquiries, and to report on the complaint as to the irregularity of the payment in cash of the wages of the immigrants.

I have, &c.
(signed) E. B. Lytton.

28 August 1858.

* Page 41.

Encl. in No. 5.

Enclosure in No. 5.

Sir,

Emigration Office, 28 August 1858.

I HAVE to acknowledge your letter of the 16th instant, enclosing a Despatch from the Governor of the Windward Islands, on the subject of coolie immigration.

2. On the 22d of August last Mr. Hincks addressed to the Secretary of State a Despatch containing animadversions both on the principles and on the details of coolie emigration reports; on this Despatch reports were required from Governor Wodehouse, then in this country, and from this Board, and these reports were communicated to Mr. Hincks. The Despatch now forwarded contains his remarks on them.

3. In the 26th and following paragraphs of our report, we submitted certain reasons for thinking that although the expenses of immigration should principally, and as a general rule, be thrown on those who benefited by it, yet the circumstances there mentioned justified the Government in viewing this "rather as a principle to be steadily kept in view, than as a rule to be inflexibly enforced." Mr. Hincks (paragraph 3 to 13) thinks that it should be inflexibly enforced, as otherwise there "would be no settled policy on the subject, and it would be left in a great degree to local Legislatures, composed chiefly of planters who have a direct pecuniary interest in the question to regulate the terms on which emigration should be permitted."

4. On the substance of this question I can only refer to the arguments adduced in our previous report. With regard to Mr. Hincks's present objection, it appears to me that a policy may be, and that good policy frequently is quite settled, and yet very elastic. I imagine that the policy of the Government with regard to the raising of immigration funds is of this kind. It is required that the cost of an immigration, which is primarily to benefit the planters, should be mainly defrayed by payments levied from them, or taxes falling on them. But, this

this being secured, it has not been thought necessary to interfere with a Colonial scheme of taxation, because under it a fraction of the expenses of immigration would fall, not on the sinking class of planters, but on the very thriving class of labourers or small proprietors. The details of Colonial taxation are matters best known in the Colonial Department, but I apprehend that by these means substantial justice is in fact done, without (in the usual phrase) "bearing too hardly" on an interest which has so much difficulty in supporting itself.

5. But Mr. Hincks is desirous (arts. 9, 10) that the expense of immigration should be wholly thrown not only on the classes benefited by it, but on the individuals receiving immigrants; alleging that by the contrary course a tax is imposed on good managers who do not require immigrants, for the benefit of bad managers who do. But this appears to me quite a question to be left to the local Legislatures. There is a *prima facie* reason for supposing that the introduction of immigrants benefits all employers in common, if not equally, by making labour more plentiful, and therefore cheaper. Wherever this is not the case the planters who do not need immigration, being fully represented in the Legislature, should fight their own battle there. It is only on behalf of the unrepresented or imperfectly represented classes, I apprehend, that the Secretary of State would feel himself called on to interfere, and certainly he does not appear to be called upon to impose unpopular obstacles to a popular project, in order to protect a class of persons who may not exist, and certainly do not invite his protection in any of the legitimate modes which, if they desire it, are open to them.

6. I do not see that I could be of any use by entering on the controversy respecting the relative position of the creole labourers in St. Lucia and Barbados, or various other points in which Mr. Hincks is at issue with Mr. Wodehouse (para. 14-24), nor respecting those reforms on the tenure of land (para. 26-32) which can only be carried into effect by convincing proprietors of land that such reforms will "pay," a task in which the Secretary of State could give little assistance to the Governor. Perhaps, however, (without claiming much importance for the observation) I may be allowed to point out that if the comparatively dependent labourer in Barbados is really better off than the comparatively independent labourers of St. Lucia and Grenada, that fact would favour the common allegation that the labouring class would itself ultimately benefit by such an increase to the population as would bring it under the more effectual control of European managers.

7. With regard to the expediency of arresting emigration unless the labourers are paid regularly in cash (para. 25) I have to state that the agreements of all coolie immigrants stipulate for such payment, and that the immigration law gives the magistrate full power to enforce it. This law of course can only be set in motion on the complaint of the labourer. But the Immigration Agents in St. Lucia and Grenada might be directed during their periodical inspections to make special inquiries on this head from immigrant labourers; to enforce the law rigidly wherever it was invoked; and to report the amount to which, as far as they can ascertain, the wages of immigrant labourers are allowed to fall into arrear. Their reports would furnish more satisfactory grounds for further action than any general allegation.

8. The rest of the Despatch (para. 35-70) appears to be intended (para. 33) to furnish the means of judging whether free labour is as cheap as that of slaves; and so "whether immigration is required in order to enable free labour in the majority of the West Indian Islands to compete with that of slavery."

9. Mr. Hincks assumes (para. 60) that, since property fetches a high price in Barbados, that Island "can compete in the production of sugar with any country in the world, whether the cultivation is carried on by slave or free labour;" and he argues at length (para. 36 *et seq.*) that the prosperity of Barbados compared with that of other West Indian Colonies, is not owing to its abundant population but to the superiority of its management. It follows, of course, that with improved management any other British Colony in the West Indies would be equally or (as the land is richer) more able to compete with Cuba and Brazil.

10. I should be merely wasting Sir E. Bulwer Lytton's time if I were to attempt to examine Mr. Hincks' proof of his second thesis. I have not the practical knowledge of West Indian cultivation which alone would enable me to understand whether calculations of this kind did or did not represent the complete and substantial truth. I must confess, however, that they seem to me, as far as I understand them, insufficient to get rid of the broad fact which meets the eye on the first glance at the West Indian Colonies. In some of these Colonies wages are high; in some comparatively low; in some they are paid regularly, in some irregularly; in some (as British Guiana) the proprietors are keen and enterprising, in others they are slack; but I believe in all important Colonies, except one, complaints are (or till lately were) made of the impossibility of securing continuous and sufficient labour, and of the ruinous cost of cultivation, involving the absolute abandonment of numerous estates, which it was found impossible either to cultivate with profit or to sell. And the single Colony which differed from the rest in being able to hold its own, differed also from them in the circumstances to which they referred their misfortunes. The population was so large in comparison to its land, that employment was a favour conferred not on the master by the servant, but on the servant by the master; and it was thus possible for the latter to require his labourer to attend regularly to his work, and to obey orders when he did attend.

11. It seems to me that scarcely any array of calculations would suffice to prove that these two facts did not stand to each other in the relation of cause and effect, and that the commercial prosperity of Barbados did not consequently arise from its abundant labouring population.

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12. But even if Mr. Hincks' calculations are sufficient for this purpose, I must observe that it does not follow because Barbados is prosperous in spite of Cuba, in a market which is at present large enough for both of them, that Barbados can therefore "compete with," i. e. grow sugar as cheaply as Cuba. Profits may be high in one Island, and yet higher in the other, and if this is the case (of which Mr. Hincks furnishes no proof or disproof) there would remain no reason for inferring (however much we may wish to infer it) that free labour was as cheap as that of slaves.

13. It is no doubt probable that many of Mr. Hincks' observations respecting the bad management of West Indian estates are true. Large salaries paid to unintelligent managers (and I may add large profits allowed to merchants and agents); irregularity in paying wages; a preference of day-work to task-work; want of capital; a non-resident proprietary; want of genuine interest in the labouring class, must all (like want of population) be elements of failure. Possibly, the confusion of rent with wages, and the disinclination to grant land on lease, may be similarly ill-judged. But I should fear that any instruction on these subjects proceeding from the Colonial Office to the West Indies would be looked upon as impractical; and that any authoritative interference (such as that of making reform a condition of immigration) could not be relied upon for doing any good, while by exciting resentment, it would certainly do some harm.

14. Nor do I think that the Home Government could secure itself from the risk of serious errors, involving, if they occurred, much discredit, if it adopted the responsibility of compelling the West Indian proprietors to cultivate their land on a system decided upon in this country.

Herman Merivale, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Frederic Rogers.*

— No. 6. —

(No. 23.)

No. 6.
Right Hon. Sir
E. B. Lytton, Bart.
M.P. to Governor
Hincks.
10 Nov. 1858.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable Sir *E. B. Lytton*, Bart., M.P.
to Governor *Hincks*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 10 November 1858.

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 55,* of the 25th September last, forwarding an article from the Barbados "Liberal," on the subject of the present tenure of lands and houses held by the labouring classes in the West Indies.

In reply, I have to state that I will give directions for the printing of this Despatch, and its enclosure, as supplementary to the Blue Book Report.

I may add, that the question concerning the tenure of the labourers' cottages and provision grounds, and of the separation of rent and wages, formed, for many years after emancipation, one of the most prominent subjects of discussion between this Department and the local authorities of the West Indian Colonies, and the progress which might be made in each Colony in procuring a conformity to the views of the Government on the part of the planters, was one of the subjects on which the stipendiary magistrates were for many years required to make half-yearly Reports.

I transmit for your information a copy of the printed volume of Abstracts of these Reports.

I have, &c.
(signed) *E. B. Lytton.*

* Page 51.

G R E N A D A.

Despatches from Governor.

— No. 1. —

(No. 31.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Hincks* to the Right Honourable
H. Labouchere, M. P.

Windward Islands, Barbados, 24 August 1857.

Sir,

(Received, 14th September 1857.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the copy of a Despatch from Lieutenant Governor Kortright, enclosing a return of the coolie immigrants per ship "Maidstone" who have died since the 1st May last.

I have, &c.
(signed) *F. Hincks*.

GRENADA.

No. 1.

Governor Hincks
to the Right Hon.
H. Labouchere, M. P.
24 August 1857.

7 August 1857.
Enclosure.

Enclosure in No. 1.

Encl. in No. 1.

(No. 48.)

Sir,

Government Office, Grenada, 7 August 1857.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you a return of the coolie immigrants arrived in the ship "Maidstone" who have died since the 1st May last.

No fresh cases of sickness have occurred since they have been landed here; the mortality has been confined to those who were labouring under disease at the time of their disembarkation from the "Maidstone."

2. The Immigration Agent remarks that no property has been left by the deceased.

His Excellency Governor Hincks,
Barbados.

I have, &c.
(signed) *C. H. Kortright*.

Sub-Enclosure.

Sub-Enclosure.

RETURN of DEATHS of INDIAN IMMIGRANTS, arrived from *Calcutta* in the Ship "Maidstone," Escott, Commander,
on 1st May 1857.

Grenada Number.	Calcutta Number.	N A M E S.	ESTATES' NAME.	Adults.		Children.		Infants.		Total.	Date of Death.
				Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Male.	Female.		
		Died in Depôt before Distribution :									1857 :
51	72	Essur -	- - -	- - -	1	-	-	-	-	1	2 May.
234	308	Narrow	- - -	- - -	-	1	-	-	-	1	3 "
209	272	Dhurmee	- - -	- - -	-	1	-	-	-	1	3 "
181	182	Nundos	- - -	- - -	1	-	-	-	-	1	4 "
193	261	Toolseyram	- - -	- - -	1	-	-	-	-	1	5 "
110	154	Mohit	- - -	- - -	1	-	-	-	-	1	7 "
		Carried forward - - -			4	2	-	-	-	6	

PAPERS RELATING TO THE

Grenada Number.	Calcutta Number.	N A M E S.	ESTATES' NAME.	Adults.		Children.		Infants.		Total.	Date of Death.
				Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Male.	Female.		
		Brought forward - - -		4	2	-	-	-	-	6	
		Died in Depôt after Distribution :									1857 :
152	207	Rapidhoney - - -	Marli - - -	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	7 May.
175	236	Sonaton - - -	Grand Bacolet - - -	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	8 "
149	203	Ramdin - - -	Mount William - - -	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	8 "
				3	-	-	-	-	-	3	
		Died in Colony Hospital :									
121	169	Mahomed Alley - - -	Conference - - -	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	15 May.
22	31	Bhokeydhur - - -	Grand Bacolet - - -	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	19 "
				2	-	-	-	-	-	2	
		Died on the respective Estates :									
221	288	Korwar - - -	Grand Bacolet - - -	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	18 May.
219	286	Kadum - - -	- ditto - - -	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	16 "
175	237	Sonaton - - -	- ditto - - -	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	16 "
282	-	Oogollah - - -	- ditto - - -	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	20 June.
18	25	Bissessur - - -	- ditto - - -	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	30 "
				2	2	-	-	-	1	5	
244	320	Kookming - - -	Crochu - - -	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	
189	256	Sawah - - -	Carriere - - -	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	20 May.
104	147	Lotan - - -	- ditto - - -	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	13 June.
				2	-	-	-	-	-	2	
249	328	Sham - - -	Belmont - - -	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	12 May.
25	34	Bhowar - - -	- ditto - - -	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	8 June.
39	54	Kannoo - - -	- ditto - - -	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	11 "
				2	1	-	-	-	-	3	
84	120	Thuigoory - - -	Mount Rose - - -	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	13 May.
214	280	Ikeesabiea - - -	- ditto - - -	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	25 June.
				1	1	-	-	-	-	2	
11	15	Boodha - - -	Mount Reuil - - -	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	11 May.
261	343	Holeemuth - - -	- ditto - - -	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	16 "
95	134	Kurmanlly - - -	- ditto - - -	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	18 "
118	166	Munnoo - - -	- ditto - - -	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	31 "
				3	-	1	-	-	-	4	
195	263	- - -	Chambord - - -	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	25 May.
140	193	Poonye - - -	Slain - - -	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	16 "
129	180	Nowbuth - - -	Lafortune - - -	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	11 "
4	7	Banluck - - -	Snell Hall - - -	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	8 "
142	195	Persand - - -	Mount William - - -	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	9 "
7	10	Budree - - -	Duquesne - - -	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	29 "
				6	-	-	-	-	-	6	
TOTAL - - -				25	7	1	-	-	1	34	

Most of these cases were chronic dysentery, diarrhœa, fever, and debility; and all died without leaving any property.

Grenada, 1 July 1857.

(signed) Y. Cockburn,
Immigration Agent.

— No. 2. —

(No. 38.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Hincks* to the Right Honourable
H. Labouchere, M. P.

Windward Islands, Barbados, 16 October 1857.

(Received, 16 November 1857.)

Sir,

(Answered, No. 95, 16 January 1858, p. 99.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the copy of a Despatch from Lieutenant Governor Kortright, being in reply to your Despatch of the 15th August 1857, on the subject of the arrangements for sending coolies to the West Indies.

I have, &c.

(signed.) *F. Hincks*.

GRENADA.

No. 2.

Governor *Hincks*
to the Right Hon.
H. Labouchere, M. P.
16 October 1857.

9 October 1857.
Enclosure.

Enclosure in No. 2.

Encl. in No. 2.

Sir,

Government Office, Grenada, 9 October 1857.

IN reply to your Despatch of the 8th September, No. 122, covering copy of a Despatch from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, on the subject of the arrangements for sending coolie labourers to the West India Colonies during the forthcoming season, I have the honour to inform you that a large portion of the expense for this service will, I fear, have to be met out of the Imperial guaranteed loan. The local immigration fund at our disposal amounted, on the 30th September last, to 427*l*.

I have, &c.

(signed) *C. H. Kortright*.

His Excellency Governor *Hincks*,
Barbados.

— No. 3. —

(No. 41.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Hincks* to the Right Honourable
H. Labouchere, M. P.

Windward Islands, Barbados, 9 November 1857.

(Received, 3 December 1857.)

Sir,

IN my Despatch of this day's date, St. Lucia, No. 57† Executive, and in my Despatches to Mr. Breen, which accompany it, I have explained at some length my views on the labour question generally, and I shall therefore confine myself on the present occasion to such points as have special reference to the Colony of Grenada, and to my correspondence with Lieutenant Governor Kortright, on the subject of your Despatch of the 12th June last, and its enclosures.

2. The rate of wages in Grenada is at present the same as St. Lucia, Barbados, and I believe St. Vincent, viz., 10*d*. per diem. In all these Colonies I have little doubt that 1*s*. is frequently given, especially to men. The coolie rate in Grenada is 10*d*., and in addition, he enjoys the advantage of medical attendance and medicines, lodging, and provision grounds of one acre. Mr. Kortright states, that in Guiana and Trinidad, provision grounds are not granted, and evidently attaches some importance to that circumstance. On the other hand, I have been assured that in Guiana a plot of ground is always gladly conceded to the coolies when required.

3. Task-work prevails generally in Grenada, and Mr. Kortright describes the task to be one which can be finished by noon. At present the coolies are not permitted to work by the task, though Mr. Kortright has little doubt that when their capabilities become known, the system will be extended to them.

4. It appears that in Grenada the resident estate labourers obtain 9*d*. per diem, the non-residents 10*d*., and on some estates both receive alike. The non-resident creole labourer only receives the wages of the coolie, without house or medical attendance, and the resident in some instances less. It is manifest, that the acre

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No. 3.

Governor *Hincks*
to the Right Hon.
H. Labouchere, M. P.
9 November 1857.

† Page 24.

Enclosure 1.

Enclosure 2.
Paar. 4.

GRENADA.

of provision ground is estimated as either of no value at all, or at that of 1 *d.* a day, or 5 *d.* per week, which is the Barbados rate for a quarter of an acre. My belief is, that when labourers are allowed to have three or four acres in cultivation, the land is situated generally at a considerable distance from the estate buildings, and high up on the slopes of the hills which border the valleys in which the sugar cultivation is carried on. This is not an unimportant fact, as the labourer loses a great deal of time in travelling to his distant provision grounds, and nothing but necessity will induce him to continue such an arrangement. The whole system of mixing up the questions of rent and wages is, as I have elsewhere stated, vicious in the extreme; it has been one of the principal causes of all the West Indian difficulties with regard to labour, and yet with the exception of Barbados, so far as my knowledge extends, it generally prevails.

5. I have no further remark to offer on the subject of the rate of wages beyond this, that the planters of St. Lucia have declared their willingness to raise them to 1 *s.* per day, while those in Grenada have not signified any such intention, and the next cargo will, I presume, be indentured on the same terms as the last.

6. I shall proceed to consider the relative cost of sugar cultivation in Barbados and Grenada, which ought to influence materially the rate of wages. It is much to be regretted that such unwillingness is manifested by the planters in these Colonies, with the exception of those in Barbados, to furnish statistical information. But while I should have been glad to have obtained several particulars, for which I applied to Mr. Kortright, I am enabled with the materials before me, to institute such a comparison as will be sufficient for the object which I have in view.

7. In my Despatch to Mr. Kortright of the 14th August, No. 117, I furnished him with a statement of the cost of producing sugar in this Island, where the cultivation is so profitable, that the value of property has reached a point higher, probably, than land used for raising an agricultural staple would sell for in any other part of the world.

8. This statement was made from the published returns of two agricultural societies in this Island, the members of which are resident practical planters; they have furnished the items of the cost in detail, and these have been fully discussed and criticised.

9. I was anxious to obtain a similar return from the planters in other Colonies, that the true cause of the prosperity of Barbados might be made apparent, and that the accuracy of the very loose, though current remark, that it is to be ascribed solely to its command of labour, might be tested.

10. Mr. Kortright in his reply has referred me to a schedule of the total expenses of working six estates in Grenada, for a period of seven years, appended by Mr. Walker to his supplementary Report in the Grenada Blue Book for 1855, and he has ascertained that this is considered to be "a fair criterion by which to judge of the cost of cultivating the majority of the estates in this Island; some few, however, consider the estimate high." I shall therefore assume that the schedule in question is the most accurate return available from Grenada, and I shall contrast it with that of Barbados.

11. The heads of expenses are arranged differently in the two returns. There is no such item in the Barbados account as "European Supply," and, unless when new machinery is required from England, I cannot conceive what articles would be included under that head, the cost of which would even approach to that stated. With regard to machinery, Mr. Kortright calls attention to the fact, that during the seven years included in the Grenada return, two of the estates were furnished with new iron water-wheels, and one with a new steam-engine and mill. In the Barbados estimate, an ample allowance is made for the wear and tear of machinery, as well as for loss upon stock, the former item being 650 dollars per annum upon a small estate, and this allowance spread over the seven years of the Grenada return, would have more than met the extra charges for new machinery referred to by Mr. Kortright.

12. It will be found, however, that three of the Grenada estates had no new machinery, and the years in which the others incurred this extra expense, are indicated. What then are the articles embraced under the head of "European Supply?" Having no data to enable me to reply, I shall content myself with remarking that this very item has long been considered in this Island to cover much wasteful expenditure. The Barbados planter obtains his supplies in the Island

Enclosure 3.
Para. 9.

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Island as he requires them, and at much less cost than is done in Grenada, judging from the return.

13. The cost of wages, strange as the fact may appear, is \$1.44 per 100 lbs. in Grenada, and \$1.76 in Barbados, which would be 1 *l.* 2 *s.* 8 *d.* difference in the cost of a hogshead of sugar. This is not adverted to by Mr. Kortright, who has not analysed the items of which the cost is made up. Taking my own reduced estimate of the cost of production in Barbados, which I have no doubt is correct, Mr. Kortright shows that the expense in Grenada is greater by 2 *l.* 9 *s.* 10 *d.* per hogshead. You will observe, that errors in the figures have been corrected in two places. I am not disposed to admit the justice of this comparison, as I am persuaded that the Grenada schedule is as much too high as the Barbados one, and this is admitted by some Grenada planters. The only fair mode of instituting a comparison is by taking the statements of the planters themselves in both Colonies. The fact then is, that the average of the Grenada estates, which is 13 *l.* 15 *s.* 11 *d.* per hogshead, is as near as possible to that of the Barbados planters, it being 5 *d.* per hogshead more than the estimate of one society, and 2 *s.* 1 *d.* per hogshead less than that of the other. I may here explain, that Mr. Kortright has fallen into an error in supposing that I estimated the net weight of the Barbados hogshead at 17 cwt., which he assigns to those of Grenada. My estimate was 1,700 lbs., which is little over 15 cwt., and I have been assured on good authority, that the average net weight in London will not exceed this. The Grenada hogsheads will certainly not weigh more than those of Barbados. This misconception does not in the least affect the calculations, and I merely advert to it to prevent misconception.

14. The cost of wages is less in Grenada, as I have already stated. There is an immense difference in the salaries paid to attornies and managers. The proprietors of Grenada are chiefly absentees, which may account for the excess under this head. In Barbados, the cost of salaries averages 1 *l.* 9 *s.* 2 *d.* per hogshead; in Grenada, 3 *l.* 14 *s.* 11 *d.*, indeed, on one of the estates, the salaries were 5 *l.* 0 *s.* 6 *d.* per hogshead, while the labourers' wages were only 6 *l.* 0 *s.* 6 *d.*

15. It is out of my power to analyse the expenditure further, owing to the want of detailed information from Grenada. Foreign manure is a heavy item in Barbados, but is invariably purchased on the spot. Unless included in "English Supplies," it is not to be found in the Grenada account: and I much doubt its having been used. Skilled workmen, such as the coppersmith, blacksmith, plumber, millwright, wheelwright, carpenter, and mason, cost about 16 *s.* per hogshead in Barbados. They are probably included under the head "Incidentals" in Grenada. About 2 *l.* per hogshead is estimated for loss on stock, and wear and tear of machinery in Barbados, and this is doubtless much more than the actual expenditure in Grenada.

16. To sum up the chief items which raise the cost of sugar in Grenada, are the heavy disbursements for salaries and for articles comprised under "European Supply;" while Barbados appears to pay more under the head of wages to labourers, probably owing to the fact, that ratooning can be carried on in Grenada to a considerable extent.

17. The Grenada estates, with one exception, averaged over 100 hogsheads of sugar, and, except during the period of the greatest depression in the sugar market, might have been conducted with profit. I must draw your particular attention to the fact, that the interest on invested capital in Barbados is about 9 *l.* per hogshead. This is a moderate estimate, being 6 per cent. on the market value of estates. The charge in Grenada, estimated in the same way, would be under 2 *l.* I particularly referred to this charge on the Barbados planter in my Despatch to Mr. Kortright, No. 117, but he has not noticed the point in his reply, and there can be no doubt that the fact is indisputable. Interest on capital having been excluded from the calculation of the cost of production, it follows, that the Grenada planter has an advantage of 7 *l.* per hogshead over the Barbados one, which is more than the entire cost of labour.

18. Mr. Kortright admits that he cannot defend the system of management or of agriculture pursued in Grenada, and states that it is "too true that there is a great misapplication of labour." He attributes this unsatisfactory state of affairs to the fact that the bulk of the property of the Island is in the hands of absentee proprietors, and I am of opinion that this has been one of the principal causes of the retrogression of the Colony.

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19. It appears that implemental husbandry does not exist in Grenada, whereas it is now very generally practised in Barbados. It certainly seems extraordinary that labour should be more economised in the Colony where it is abundant, than elsewhere.

20. Mr. Kortright estimates the population, which is available for cane cultivation in Grenada, at 6,000. He also cites the opinion of a gentleman of very great experience and intelligence, who estimates that out of a population of 28,000, 4,500 to 5,000 work continually on sugar plantations. I am thoroughly convinced that the estimated number of labourers in Grenada should produce double the quantity of sugar that is exported. I have considered this subject fully in my St. Lucia correspondence, and shall here content myself with affirming that the well-directed labour of 4,800 persons should be sufficient for the production of 12,000 hogsheads of sugar.

21. I readily subscribe to Mr. Kortright's opinion that in Trinidad, and I would add in Barbados, "the principle of economising labour is better understood than in Grenada;" but I am further persuaded that economy never will be practised so long as cheap coolie labour shall be supplied to the planters.

22. Though I am of opinion that the rate of wages in Grenada is insufficient, and that free labour might be attracted from Barbados if adequate inducements were held out, you will have gathered from my Despatches that I attach infinitely more importance to the tenure of the labourers' holdings, which is the root of all West Indian evils.

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23. In my Despatch to Lieutenant Governor Kortright, No. 117, pars. 25 and 26, I have exaggerated the increased cost of coolie labour, owing to my having been under the impression that the Colony was liable to furnish return passages to the labourers after an industrial residence of five years. If I am not mistaken, such was at one time the state of the law in some of the Colonies. Owing to accidental causes to which it is unnecessary to refer, I could not obtain a copy of the Grenada Immigration Act, when I first had the subject under consideration, but a subsequent reference to it has convinced me that I have overestimated the cost of coolie labour, and that 3 *d.* to 4 *d.* per diem, beyond that of the creole, would be more correct. The argument is not weakened by this error.

24. In conclusion, I have to report that in my opinion the rate of wages in Grenada ought at least to be 1 *s.* 3 *d.* per diem, and that it is dealing hardly with the resident population to expose them to the competition of what must be termed compulsory labour, at all events, until wages have reached such a point as would indicate a deficiency of supply.

I have, &c.
(signed) *F. Hincks.*

Encl. 1, in No. 3.

Enclosure 1, in No. 3.

(113.)

Sir,

Windward Islands, Barbados, 7 July 1857.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the copy of a Despatch from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, forwarding a report from the Emigration Commissioners accompanying a letter from Mr. Caird, Emigration Agent at Calcutta, on the subject of the treatment of coolie immigrants.

His Excellency
Lieutenant Governor Kortright, Grenada.

I have, &c.
(signed) *F. Hincks.*

Encl. 2, in No. 3.

Enclosure 2, in No. 3.

Sir,

Government Office, Grenada, 7 August 1857.

REFERRING to your Despatch, No. 113 of the 7th July, covering copy of a Despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and a report from the Emigration Commissioners, accompanying a letter from Mr. Caird, Emigration Agent at Calcutta, respecting the rate of wages paid to coolies in the several British Colonies, I have the honour to inform you that the question raised by Mr. Caird appearing to me to be a very important one, not only with regard to the coolie labourers, but as involving a total change in the rate of labourers' wages in Grenada. I have laid the several documents before the Executive Council, in order to avail myself of their experience on the subject of the labour market.

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2. There is no doubt that it would be highly impolitic to allow the coolies at the time of their engagements in India to entertain any false impressions as to the remuneration they are to receive for their services in Grenada, and, as a matter of course, they will prefer emigrating to the Colony which holds out to them the best prospect of high wages.

3. In stating the rate of wages in Grenada at 10*d.* per diem, it appears to have escaped Mr. Caird's notice, that Mr. Walker's Despatch of the 6th October 1856, to which he refers in his letter, shows that in addition to 10*d.* per diem, the coolie is entitled to "provision-grounds of at least one acre." This is an advantage which he does not possess in Trinidad or British Guiana, and offers to an industrious man an opportunity of bettering his condition to a considerable extent.

4. The system of task-work has long been in operation among the native labourers in this Island; and when the capabilities of the coolies for labour have become better known here, it will, I have reason to believe, be extended to them. The creole labourer frequently finishes his task by noon, and generally refuses to undertake a second one, devoting the rest of the day to the cultivation of his own provision-ground. It is thus in the power of an industrious man to double his daily wages by a little additional exertion.

5. It appears to me that under the task system the coolie will be placed in a better position than he is in the Mauritius, where his net gain in wages is confessedly only 2*s.* 6*d.* a week, without apparently an opportunity being afforded him of increasing the amount by additional labour.

6. An increase in the rate of wages of the coolies would involve a change with respect to the remuneration of the creole labourers, and I am not prepared to state at present whether the planters will consider it to their advantage to adopt such a course. As it is, the coolie is better off than the native labourer, who has neither house nor medical attendance provided for him.

7. There are several advantages this Island possesses over Trinidad and British Guiana which appear trifling, but which nevertheless tend to the comfort of the labourers, accessibility of markets for the purchase or sale of provisions, the low price of ground provisions, and the abundance of running water, a free use of which I believe the coolies consider of great importance.

His Excellency Governor Hincks,
Barbados.

I have, &c.
(signed) *C. H. Kortright.*

Enclosure 3, in No. 3.

Encl. 3, in No. 3.

(No. 117.)

Windward Islands, Barbados,
14 August 1857.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 7th instant, No. 47, Executive, containing your observations on Mr. Caird's letter on the subject of the rate of wages paid to coolie labourers in the several British Colonies.

2. There can be no doubt that the question raised by Mr. Caird is one of deep importance, and you acted most wisely in laying all the documents before your Executive Council, and in availing yourself of their experience in the labour market.

3. I fear very much that the explanations which you have offered in the Despatch before me will be considered anything but satisfactory, either by the Indian Government or by the Secretary of State; and I think that the time has arrived when it would be no longer proper for me to withhold the expression of the opinions which I have formed on the labour question of the West Indies, and which are the result of much deliberation, and founded on well authenticated facts.

4. Your Despatch has strengthened my previous conviction that the policy which the Grenada planters have hitherto pursued is a most ruinous one for themselves.

5. I am well aware how difficult it is to convince the employers of labour that it is their interest to raise the rate of wages, and I cannot say that in the present instance I have the faintest hope of success.

6. But I am bound, not less by my duty to Her Majesty than by a most sincere desire to promote the best interests of the planters of Grenada, to state candidly the opinions which I have formed.

7. The current rate of wages in Grenada is 10*d.* a day, which is the Barbados rate, though here it is frequently 1*s.*, and in British Guiana it is, I believe, not less than 1*s.* 6*d.* I have been repeatedly assured that the planters in Grenada, St. Vincent, and St. Lucia cannot afford to raise the rate of wages. I do not desire, in discussing this question, to base my opinions on the high price of sugar which has ruled for some time back, and which may be treated as exceptional, but rather on what may be considered an average price estimated fairly with reference to the cost of production.

8. I find that in Barbados the actual cost of delivering sugar on the wharf may be fairly estimated at \$5. 16, or 21*s.* 6*d.* per 100 lbs., which would make the cost of a hogshead of 1,700 lbs. net, 18*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* sterling. This cost includes, as it of course ought to do, fair interest on the capital invested in buildings and land.

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9. I proceed

GRENADA.

9. I proceed to analyse the items of which this cost price is made up :

It consists then of wages per 100 lbs., equal to	-	-	-	\$ 1 76 0
Salaries -	-	-	-	0 41 1
Manures -	-	-	-	0 29 4
Taxes -	-	-	-	0 08 8
Maintenance of stock -	-	-	-	0 17 6
Carriage to market, stores, provisions, lumber, casks, skilled workmen, wear and tear of buildings and machinery				1 24 1
				<hr/>
				\$ 3 97 0
Deduct value of offal crop	-	-	-	1 35 0
				<hr/>
				2 62 0
Add interest on capital invested in lands and buildings	-	-	-	2 54 0
				<hr/>
				\$ 5 16 0

10. The data on which this statement is made, I can thoroughly rely on as giving the maximum cost of the cultivation of sugar in Barbados. They have been obtained from the reports of two agricultural societies, consisting of experienced planters; and where those societies differed in opinion, I took the highest figure given by either, so that my estimate exceeds theirs. I further compared those estimates with actual balance-sheets of the operations of a year on well-conducted estates, and I have tested their accuracy in various other ways.

11. Those calculations were made some years ago, and I am convinced that they are excessive, or rather that during the interval which has since elapsed, greater economy has been introduced into the management of sugar estates in this Island.

12. That I am correct in this assertion, would not be disputed in Barbados. At \$ 3. 97. per 100 lbs., less allowance for offal \$ 1. 35., the hogshead weighing 1,700 lbs., would cost without allowance for interest, \$ 44. 54., or 9*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.*, and this is much too high.

13. My own belief is, that at least 20 per cent. may be deducted from the aggregate charges, which would reduce the cost of the hogshead of sugar, exclusive of interest, and after giving credit for the offal crop, to \$ 31. 30., or 6*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.* per hhd. The value of the rum (40*c.* per gallon), molasses (20*c.* per gallon), and provisions as above stated, is in accordance with the estimates of the agricultural societies, and though very much below the prices which have lately ruled in this market, would be \$ 22. 95. per hhd., or 4*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.*,* which added to 6*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.*, gives 11*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.*† as the cost of a hogshead of sugar, including the offal crop; and this, it will be generally admitted, is the full average cost.

14. I have been particular in these explanations because, on the one hand, I have determined to understate my case, and have therefore taken the highest estimates I could find of the cost of producing sugar even when made with less economy than at present; while, on the other hand, I have desired to guard myself from the imputation of ignorance of the real cost of production. The value of the offal crop is of course subject to constant fluctuation, and the cost of production per 100 lbs. must depend on the seasons. It may therefore be proper to explain that the expenses are the cost of working an estate having about 120 acres of cane land, 60 in canes and 60 in preparation, and which, according to my estimate, would yield 100 hhd. of sugar, though in a very favourable season 120 would be obtained, and in an unfavourable one perhaps not more than 80, or occasionally even less.

15. Having now laid fully before you the cost of the production of sugar in Barbados, it remains for me to consider what it ought to cost in Grenada. There are many points in which that Colony has the advantage over Barbados, especially in the land requiring less foreign manure, which is becoming more and more expensive, and in the cost of moulding. I shall not, however, urge any deduction on this account. In the items of lumber, provision, casks, wear and tear of machinery, maintenance of stock, Grenada does not labour under any disadvantage. The advantage of Barbados is generally said to consist in its abundance of labour; but, in point of fact, wages are fully as high, if not higher, in this colony than in Grenada, while the capital invested is five times greater. The official returns too show that, in proportion to the number of estates, Grenada has a larger quantity of land in canes than Barbados.

16. The effect of such high prices as have lately been obtained for sugar would in most countries have produced a corresponding increase in the rate of wages; but in Barbados, owing to the density of the population, the advance has fallen on real estate, which has in consequence materially risen in price. In the other Colonies, where labour is scarce and land abundant and cheap, wages, and not land, ought to benefit by the advance in the price of sugar.

17. The Grenada planter being at much less charge for the interest on capital, which is \$ 2. 54. per 100 lbs. in Barbados, and certainly not more than 50*c.* per 100 lbs. in Grenada, could afford to give 1*s.* 6*d.* per day for labour, and still cultivate sugar much more economically than the Barbados planter, even admitting, which I am willing to do, that his offal crop would be less valuable.

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* Should be
4*l.* 15*s.* 7½*d.*

† Should be
11*l.* 6*s.* -½*d.*

18. Some other cause then must be sought for to account for the great prosperity of the planters in Barbados, and I have no hesitation in affirming that it is owing partly to their agricultural skill which has enabled them, under many disadvantages, to prosecute cultivation successfully, but mainly to their judicious treatment of the labouring classes, which stands out in bold relief as an example to the West Indies.

19. It is indeed a most remarkable fact that in this Island where, owing to the superabundance of the population, the price of labour has been kept at a nominally low rate; and where land is both scarce and dear, the labouring classes are on the whole so well off that they cannot be tempted to emigrate.

20. I attribute this, in a great degree, to the liberality of the planters. They are unable to rent much land to their labourers, but they have encouraged them in industrial pursuits, and thus the labourer has obtained indirect advantages much greater than his mere wages.

21. Thus the labourers raise a large portion of the young cane plants which are bought from them by their employers. They are encouraged to cultivate canes on their provision-grounds, and the planter lends his boiling-house, taking only one-fourth of the produce, while in other Colonies one-half is usually demanded, and every discouragement is thrown on the cultivation of the sugar-cane by the labourers. Job-work is resorted to whenever practicable, by which industry is encouraged and rewarded.

22. The Barbados planter has been amply compensated for his liberality and his attention to the interests of his labourers by their industry, and what is better still, their attachment to the land on which they live. It is melancholy indeed to have to assert that in other Colonies the policy pursued has been to alienate the affections of the creole labourers by the importation of foreigners, and to endanger their civilization by forcing them to abandon that labour for which they are especially fitted.

23. I am well aware that I am affirming a proposition at variance with that which is generally inculcated by the planters of the West Indies. It is usual to throw blame upon the creole, who, it is said, has abandoned labour, and has fled to the woods, that he may live in barbarism and idleness.

24. I wish candidly to examine this proposition; I desire that an inquiry should be instituted fairly and dispassionately as to what encouragement has been given to the creole labourer. I shall refer specially to the case of Grenada, but my argument will equally apply to other Colonies, even though the rates of wages may be dissimilar.

25. The established wages in Grenada are 10*d.* a day, though I have already proved that a Grenada planter can afford to give 50 per cent. more than Barbados rates, owing to the cheapness of land. However, the rate being 10*d.*, and a deficiency of labour existing, it has been determined to import coolies. The principle on which coolie immigration has been hitherto conducted is, that all the expenses of passage out and home are paid by the Colony, the labourer receiving the current wages. What then is the extra cost of coolie labour? I do not hesitate to affirm that it is not less than 6*d.* a day. The rate of passage for the coolies brought to Grenada was 11*l.* 11*s.* for each adult. In five years they must be sent back at an equal cost; this is exclusive of doctors, interpreter, agents in India, &c. But you are aware that 32 adults have already died out of the late cargo per "Maidstone," which is about 12 per cent., and which has already caused a total loss to the Colony of nearly 400*l.* on that cargo.

26. I estimate the cost of each coolie imported, including return-passage, at not less than 30*l.*; and as the industrial residence is five years, this amounts to 6*l.* per annum. The working days in the year, allowing for 20 holidays, are 240, so that the extra expense of a coolie is 6*d.* a day. Then, again, you announce to me a most extraordinary fact, which I must not omit to notice, though it is at variance with the impression which I formed when in Grenada. You state that, in addition to his wages of 10*d.*, the coolie is entitled to provision-ground of at least one acre, and that "he is better off than the native labourer, who has neither house nor medical attendance provided for him." An acre of land and a house ought certainly to be worth 1*s.* 8*d.* per week, or 4*d.* a day. The rent of the negro houses in Barbados is 10*d.* a week, or 2*d.* a day, and they should be worth as much in Grenada. In Barbados one quarter of an acre of land rents from 5*d.* to 10*d.* a week, that is, 1*s.* 8*d.* to 3*s.* 4*d.* per acre. Taking land in Grenada at half the value of the minimum rates in Barbados, it should yield 10*d.* per acre per week, which, added to 10*d.* for the house, gives 1*s.* 8*d.* per week, or 4*d.* per day.

27. Thus, then, the creole labourer gets 10*d.* per day, while the coolie is to receive 10*d.* wages, 4*d.* in house and land, and 6*d.* in cost of importation and removal, in all 1*s.* 8*d.* per day, or exactly double the wages of the creole. I am inclined to hope that this is an exaggerated view of the case, and that you must have been led into some error as to the coolie being "better off than the creole" with reference to a house and grounds. When in Grenada my impression certainly was, that the creole labourer was not charged rent for his provision-grounds. Be this as it may, the system pursued is a most vicious one, which has been completely abandoned in Barbados. The labourer should receive full money wages, and be charged a fair rental per acre for his land, on which he would probably put up his own house.

28. Though I hope that you will be able to show that the creole labourer is not subjected to the injustice of being charged rent for house and grounds, which are given free of such a charge to the coolie, there is a feature in the Grenada immigration system which I cannot, in treating of the question, omit to notice. I have already pointed out that the coolies expenses add 6*d.* per day to the cost of his labour; but it seems almost incredible that the creole labourer should be taxed to make up that 6*d.*, and yet such is the fact. The immi-

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gration funds are raised in Grenada by a tax on the consumption of rum, which it is notorious is paid chiefly by the creole labouring population, and which, though an admirable tax, would be more popular if it were applied to promote education instead of to bring in foreigners to compete with the labourers for employment.

29. It is generally admitted that the creole labourers are fully alive to all acts of injustice, and it is not, therefore, to be wondered at that such a policy as I have described should have alienated their affections from the planters, and inspired them in some places with a deep hatred of the foreigners brought into the country at their expense to compete with them in the labour market.

30. Fully convinced in my own mind that coolie immigration into these Colonies is wholly unnecessary, and calculated to lead to most deplorable results in the future, from which none will suffer so severely as the planters who have demanded it, and whose erroneous policy has led persons at a distance and unacquainted with facts to believe in the deficiency of labour. I nevertheless think that a system might be devised that, at all events, would not be inconsistent with justice to the creole.

Before attempting to introduce new labourers to receive current wages, and whose expenses would constitute an extra charge on the Colony receiving them, I think that the current wages should be advanced to such rate as the existing wages with the cost of the immigrant would amount to.

31. Thus, if in Grenada, the current wages are 10*d.* a day, without a house and land, and if the planters are prepared to import coolies at an extra cost of 6*d.* a day, and 4*d.* extra in the form of house and land, they ought, it seems to me, to raise the wages of the creole to 1*s.* 8*d.* before importing coolies at that cost. Then, instead of the coolie being informed that he would be carried back and forward at the expense of the Colony, and at the same time receive full wages, he should be told that he would receive a fixed rate per diem, which should be less than the current wages by as much as would be sufficient to meet his expenses. The planter requiring such labour should pay for it in such a mode as would indemnify the Colonial Government, the planter himself being indemnified by getting coolie labour at a less rate than the current wages. Under this system there would at least be no injustice to any class. The coolie would understand clearly the conditions on which he had to labour, and if he found the offered wages sufficient he would still emigrate.

32. I am, however, of opinion that coolie Immigration is, on many grounds, undesirable. The best labourer is the creole, and after him the African. I do not anticipate any denial of this assertion, but there is too much reason to fear that African labourers cannot be obtained. This should only stimulate the planters to recover that creole labour which they have most unwisely abandoned.

33. One means of doing so is by a large increase of wages, which I have clearly proved they can afford to give, and to which the labourer is justly entitled. I confess, however, that I rely much less upon this remedy than upon another which I shall proceed to explain, and on the success of which, if fairly tried, I entertain not the slightest doubt.

34. The cause of the abandonment of the sugar estates is, that it is much more profitable for a man to cultivate land on his own account than to labour for wages. Hence the labourers have resorted to squatting, and have abandoned, in too many cases, civilised places, in order to obtain the full benefit of their labour.

35. The most profitable kind of labour is the cultivation of the sugar-cane, and from that the Grenada labourer has generally been excluded, while the Barbados labourer, as I have already stated, has been encouraged in it.

36. The canes can only be manufactured at the mill of the proprietor; and therefore if cane cultivation on a small scale were encouraged, the employer would have an influence over the labourer such as in no other way he could obtain.

37. Land is abundant on the Grenada estates. It would be well worth the while of a planter to encourage, by every means in his power, a considerable number of labourers to settle on his estate, to raise provisions and canes, the latter to be manufactured on liberal terms, as in Barbados. The number should be regulated by the labour required at crop time, when a considerable extra force must be employed. At that time a planter could command the whole labour on his estate for the manufacture of his own crop, as well as that of his labourers.

38. At other seasons the labourers would have no difficulty in doing the estate work, in addition to their own; in fact, the planter would not have constant work for as many hands as he would require at crop time. He should give liberal wages, at least 1*s.* 4*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.*, charging a fair rent per acre for his land, and for a house, when rented; and he would employ his labourers as much as possible at job-work, which is in every way the most economical.

39. I am convinced that by following the course which I have pointed out above, a very large number of the labourers may even yet be recovered for the larger estates, though I admit that it will be much more difficult to bring them back, than it would have been to have retained them on the estates.

40. Whatever views may be entertained by the Grenada planters as to the correctness of my opinions, and as to the expediency of trying whether creole labour can be attracted to the sugar estates by adopting the policy which I have pointed out, one thing is clear, that unless they are prepared to adopt the rate of wages current in British Guiana and in Trinidad, they will be unable to obtain immigrants.

41. All immigration from the east and from Africa must be under the immediate supervision of Her Majesty's Government, and the labourers will, of course, choose the Colony which

which presents the greatest advantages in the shape of wages. It will be difficult to make them understand that the prices of commodities are much higher in those Colonies. It may, however, be expedient to point out the heavy taxation on many of the necessaries of life, and also that in one of them a capitation tax is in force.

42. I have endeavoured to discuss this question solely upon economical grounds. I confess, however, that I look upon it as most important in the interests of humanity. It is a trite remark in these Colonies, that we have a great debt to pay to the African race. I think, however, that we do not fully comprehend how considerable a portion of that debt has been incurred by our conduct since the passing of the Emancipation Act.

43. That great experiment, for such it was, has been watched with anxious attention by the slaveholders throughout the world, and what have they been taught by the West Indian planters? 1st. That free labour cannot compete with slave labour without protective duties. 2d. That the negro is both indolent and saucy, that he will not work for hire, and that consequently it has been necessary to import labour at an enormous cost from the East, the labourers being compelled to hire themselves under contract, which is generally believed in foreign countries to be a sort of mitigated slavery.

44. I presume that it is hardly necessary, in the present day, to prove by facts and figures, that free labour is infinitely cheaper than slave. Were it not that evidence taken before a Committee of the House of Commons is on record to prove that gentlemen of high standing at one time affirmed the contrary, it would be thought incredible that such an error could have prevailed. It is true that in Cuba, owing to the system which is in force, slave labour is infinitely cheaper than it was in the British Colonies, or than it is in the United States where the slave is treated, comparatively to Cuba, with great humanity. But even in Cuba, slave labour is dearer than free labour in Barbados. With regard to the United States slaves labour, sugar can only be cultivated by the aid of protective duties, which cannot be maintained, and free trade will inevitably put an end to the cultivation of sugar by slave labour in the United States.

45. If the slaveholders of America could only witness the relations subsisting between the planters and the labourers in Barbados, and test fairly the result of a system of free labour, much good would be done; but the problem has yet to be solved, of obtaining from the creole the required labour in a country where land is abundant and easily obtainable. Such it is in the United States, and the slaveowners have been taught to believe, that the labourers will not work for hire if they can avoid it.

46. I have a very strong opinion to the contrary, and I am convinced that no judicious attempt has yet been made to encourage the labourers, to combine labour on estates with the cultivation of land on their own account. Under such a system I have no doubt that the price of cotton wool might be reduced, and the great staple of the southern states cultivated at a much less cost than at present.

47. Unfortunately the opinion has become but too prevalent in the southern states of America, not only that free labour is less economical than slave labour, but that an emancipated negro is unwilling to work for hire. This opinion is grounded on the statements made by the West India planters. The fact is, that the free labourer in the West Indies has simply endeavoured to obtain a just equivalent for his labour, and has turned it to the best account in his power.

48. It is much to be regretted that that labour has been heretofore less profitably employed than it might have been. It is universally admitted that the cultivation of the sugar-cane is the most profitable employment to which labourers can be put in the West Indies, and yet labour has been diverted into other channels because the proprietors of estates would neither give fair wages to the labourers nor allow them to cultivate the cane on their own account, paying a fair rent for their land and obtaining facilities for the manufacture of the sugar crop.

49. Other attempts to coerce the creole labourers to accept the reduced wages fixed by the planters having failed, a system of introducing alien races has been adopted, the result of which has been to exasperate the creoles, and to alienate their affections from their natural protectors.

50. I deeply lament this condition of affairs. I fear that the impressions which have been formed upon the subject have become so rooted that there is little probability of their being removed.

51. I am likewise well aware that I have expressed opinions in this Despatch opposed to those generally entertained by many influential inhabitants of these Colonies. I have, however, weighed them most deliberately. They are in strict accordance with those economical principles now generally recognised, and which govern the markets for labour throughout the world. I trust that they will receive a candid consideration, and I can assure you, that if the planting interest of Grenada can disprove the facts upon which they are based, I will most readily consider any representation which they may be disposed to make.

52. The practical question to be considered, is simply whether Her Majesty's Government can recommend coolie labourers to be sent to Grenada, while the rate of wages given in that Colony is less than in Guiana. I am bound, on my own part to add, that I shall object most strongly to any immigration so long as a system is maintained under which "the coolie is better off than the native labourer, who has neither house nor medical attendance provided for him."

I have, &c.
(signed) F. Hincks.

His Excellency
Lieutenant-Governor Kortright,
&c. &c. &c.

GRENADA.

Enclosure 4, in No. 3.

Encl. 4, in No. 3.

(No. 61.)

Government Office, Grenada,
22 October 1857.

Sir,

I HAVE deferred replying to your Despatch, No. 117 of 14th August last, being desirous, before grappling with so important a subject as labour and emigration, to obtain all possible information.

2. It is a matter of extreme difficulty to arrive, with any degree of certainty, at the actual cost of manufacturing sugar in this Colony; and the information I have been able to collect, even after consulting the leading planters of the Island, is so meagre, that I am unable to enter into details, with regard to Grenada, with the same degree of accuracy as your Excellency's better means of collecting facts enables you to do with respect to Barbados.

3. The data on which your statement is based, obtained from the report of agricultural societies, consisting of experienced planters, and from other reliable sources, must be taken to be conclusive. It remains then to be seen, whether a fair comparison can be instituted between Barbados and Grenada, as to the relative costs of producing sugar.

4. A schedule of the total expenses of the working of six estates, for a period of seven years, was appended by Mr. Walker to his supplementary Report on the Grenada Blue Book, transmitted in 1856, and is considered by the greater part of the planters here to be a fair criterion by which to judge of the cost of cultivating the majority of the estates in this Island; some few, however, consider the estimate high.

5. I may observe that during the seven years for which the calculations were made, two of the estates referred to in the schedule each paid for a new iron water-wheel, and another of them for a new steam-engine and mill. These expenses should not properly appear as a part of the cost of producing sugar, but should be considered as capital, and the interest only charged against the sugar; however, as I before mentioned, it is so difficult to obtain reliable information, that I feel I cannot do better than to adopt this return, according to which the average cost of producing a hogshead of sugar is 13*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.*; * allowing the weight of the hogshead to be about the same as in Barbados, viz. 17 cwt., the expense of manufacturing would be 1*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.* greater.†

6. I do not intend to defend the system of management or of agriculture generally pursued here, nor do I contend that sugar might not be produced at a cheaper rate than at present.

It is also too true that there is a great misapplication of labour, and that that which is obtainable might be made more profitable by better management, such as I fear will never prevail in Grenada; for the simple reason that out of 75 estates in cane cultivation, more than one half belong to absentee proprietors; and the attorneys and managers, uncertain as to the result of a new system of management, are naturally unwilling to incur the responsibility of a possible failure. A change in the general management of estates, unless made simultaneously by the whole planting body, would prove worse than useless. At the same time I believe, that nobody will deny that Grenada, in common with the other smaller islands comprised within the Government of the Windward Islands, has laboured under disadvantages; against which, Barbados, from a variety of causes, has been able to contend.

7. Barbados has never suffered to nearly the same extent from absenteeism, accompanied by its long train of evils; Barbados has always had a large labouring population at command. The very nature of the Island itself, so different in its physical formation to Grenada, offers facilities for the employment of the cheapest description of labour. Implemental husbandry does not exist in Grenada; whereas, I suppose, that there is scarcely one estate in Barbados, which does not admit of tillage by means of the plough. The description of labour, upon a large supply of which the planter in Grenada must depend for his profits, is scarce; whilst in Barbados, where the planter is not so entirely dependent on a very large numerical force of labourers, except, perhaps, in crop time, there is an admitted superabundance of it.

8. It is utterly impossible to compute with any degree of accuracy the actual number of persons, whose labour can be depended on for the cultivation of sugar estates. By the census taken in 1851, the number of persons employed in agriculture, including 12 in the town of St. George, and 1,218 in Carriacou, was set down at 13,502, the whole population being 32,671. In 1854 the cholera committed great havoc among the labouring population; the census return also appears to have included all persons employed in agriculture, whether on their own account or for wages.

9. I do not believe that more than 6,000 persons, or about one-fifth of the population, work regularly in the cane fields. One gentleman of very great experience and intelligence says, "It is thought that out of a population of somewhere about 28,000, only between 4,500 and 5,000 work continually on sugar plantations, and the consequence is, the Island ships 5,000 to 6,000 hogsheads of sugar, instead of 16,000 to 18,000 which it used to do."

10. If Lord Harris's statement in his Despatch of the 21st February 1848, to the Secretary of State, that "an allowance of one person is amply sufficient for two hogsheads of sugar," be correct, even the small number of labourers said to be constantly available for sugar cultivation, ought to produce one-third more than is actually shipped from Grenada. Lord Harris's calculation, however, does not appear to apply to Grenada, owing probably to the fact, that the land in Trinidad can be more cheaply worked, and that the principle of economising labour is better understood than in Grenada. Be that as it may, it is the general

* Should be
1*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.*

† Should be
2*l.* 9*s.* 10½*d.*

general opinion here, that there is an insufficiency of steady and continuous labour in this Island.

11. The question is then, whether an attempt shall be made to induce the creole labourer to resume the cultivation of the cane, and what means are to be adopted to bring about that result; or whether foreign labour shall be imported, at, I admit, a very high rate, and substituted for the creoles, who have ceased to place their labour at the command of the planters.

12. Your Excellency recommends an increase of wages. The current rate of wages here is 10 *d.* a day, and usually 1 *s.* in crop season to non-resident labourers; that is to say, to those not residing on estates, and generally 9 *d.* a day to resident labourers, although on some estates no difference is made between the resident and non-resident. The resident labourer is allowed in all cases a house, and at least an acre of provision-ground, the value of which is nominally reckoned at 3 *d.* per diem, but this is by no means confined to one acre, some having as much as three or more in cultivation. Thus you will perceive that the labourer is not directly charged rent for his house and grounds; but, with all the advantages I have pointed out, there is but a difference of about one penny per diem made between the resident and non-resident labourer. I find that out of 23 estates from which I have got information, 22 afford medical aid and medicines gratis; the 23d does not, because there is no medical man in the neighbourhood. I certainly had been led into error on this point; I had been informed that the custom of employing a medical man to attend the estate's labourers had been very generally abandoned; this I find by the papers now before me is not the case.

13. The labourers here have not been in the habit of raising much cane in their provision grounds, but that has been principally owing to the low price of sugar. They have been able, at the expense of much less physical labour, to grow provisions for the sale of which they are not restricted to this Island, but have a ready market in Trinidad, and are justly satisfied with the large profits they make in that Island. Since the rise in the price of sugar, the cultivation of the cane has become much more general among the labourers, and I cannot find, by strict inquiry, that any discouragement is thrown on it by the planters.

With the terms on which the sugar is manufactured you are well acquainted; for one half of the produce, the canes are carted from the field and manufactured into sugar. You say in the 20th paragraph of your Despatch that in Barbados the planter lends his boiling-house, taking only one quarter of the produce. If the accommodation afforded by the planter in Barbados is limited to the loan of his boiling-house, I think the advantage is on the side of the Grenada labourer.

14. Whatever injury the planter may have received from injudicious treatment of the labourers for some years after emancipation, and to which your Excellency very justly attributes a great portion of the distress to which the West India Islands have been subjected, it cannot be said that in Grenada the importation of foreigners has alienated the affections of the labourers and endangered their civilization, by forcing them to abandon that labour for which they are specially fitted, the first introduction of strangers having taken place in May last, with the exception of a few hundred Portuguese introduced some years ago. If the policy pursued by the planter in Grenada has proved ruinous to himself by depriving him of the services of the creole labourer, it can scarcely be asserted that it has driven the latter to the woods, where he lives in barbarism and idleness. It has had the effect of establishing a class of persons unknown in Barbados. Land is cheap in Grenada, either to purchase or rent, and consequently squatting scarcely exists. A proprietary body has sprung into life, daily increasing its numbers and the extent of its operations, and far from retrograding in the scale of civilization. Such a class I consider likely in the course of time to exercise a considerable influence over the political and commercial status of the Island.

15. Where such a field is open to the labourer, the condition of that class cannot be said to be unfavourable, nor is it probable that any but very strong inducements would lead him to neglect his own property, and to return again to the condition of an estates' labourer.

16. From among the owners and renters of land at the seasons when the planter requires least labour he is able to get more than sufficient; but when the canes require weeding the supply of labour is most uncertain. The labourer's land at that time requires attention as well as the planter's, and, as a matter of course, has the preference.

17. I think I have laid before your Excellency a fair exposition of the condition of the labouring classes in Grenada, and of the relation in which they stand to the planters. They have a prospect of attaining a position of independence which is beyond the reach of the labourer in Barbados, where he is dependent on his employer, whom he dare not displease, as his services can be dispensed with, owing to the facility of supplying his place. In Grenada the reverse is the case; the planter is at the mercy of the labourer, who has it almost in his power to dictate terms to his master.

18. My opinion, that a comparison can scarcely be drawn between Barbados and Grenada labour, and that the same system of management will not be attended with the same success, has been strengthened from a conversation I had a few days since with a gentleman who has lately undertaken the management of an estate here, having been for 15 or 16 years previously settled in Barbados.

He says that according to his experience, the creole works harder in Barbados than here; that here the labourer is too independent, and that if spoken to as in Barbados he would shoulder his hoe and leave the field. It is also a remarkable fact, that several Barbados planters have tried sugar cultivation in Grenada, and have, I believe, with one exception, failed.

GRENADA.

19. The cost the planter is willing to incur on account of coolie labour, clearly demonstrates the correctness of your assertion, that he could afford to give a higher rate of wages than is paid to the creole labourer, and yet make the cultivation of sugar profitable; but it must be borne in mind that in the item of wages the creole is already on an equality with the coolie, and the greater cost of the latter is caused by the expense of transport from India. The planters admit that the creole is a more able-bodied labourer than the Indian, and physically better fitted for hard work, but maintain that his value is greatly decreased by his unwillingness to labour steadily and uninterruptedly.

20. With respect to the expediency of raising wages, one planter states as follows:— "It may safely be advanced that the present rate of wages, with the advantages enjoyed by the native population, has been ample to allow by far the greater number of our effective creole and African population to settle on their own lots of land of from one to two acres, where the settler builds himself a Roseau house," (all the materials taken from the proprietor's land in the mountains), "where he keeps a pig, and cultivates provisions more than ample to supply his wants. He is there in the height of his ambition; seldom works on a sugar estate, except perhaps in crop-time, when he comes in for the sweets, which is always given to the labourers. It is not meant to be said that this is invariably the case, but it appears to be the prevailing feature, as seen in the present day in the rural districts of this Island; in fact, it is known that, for the most part, the labourers work, on an average, throughout the year continuously only three days a week; the wages for which time, together with the advantages enjoyed by them, and which they take, whether at work or absent from work, enabling them to live at ease during the remainder of the week. From this it is only fair to infer that an increase of wages would only tend for a time to the encouragement of the cane cultivation, but would eventually increase permanently the number of small settlers."

21. This impression that increased wages would only temporarily benefit the estates is so general among the planters, and has taken such strong hold of their minds, that I fear there is at present little probability of their being induced to change their views. Supposing them, however, willing to adopt a more liberal scale of wages, I am not by any means sanguine that it would have the effect of enabling Grenada to dispense with immigration. I do not think that a sufficient number of creoles, willing to contract with the planters for constant work, can be obtained at any price, unless the extent of cultivation be much reduced, which, by making land cheaper than it is, would offer to the labourer still greater inducements to become a small proprietor.

22. Whilst advocating that the current rate of wages should be raised, and that the attempt should be made in that way to induce the creole to give his undivided labour to the sugar estates, I am firmly of opinion that immigration, for a time at least, is extremely desirable. This Island is capable of supporting a much larger population than it at present possesses; and although the superior skill of the Barbados planter is generally acknowledged throughout the West Indies, I cannot but attribute a great portion of the prosperity of that Island to its superabundant population, which has enabled the planter to apply his experience and skill to practical purposes.

23. I regret to find that you are of opinion that the explanations I have offered in my Despatch of the 7th August, No. 47, on the subject of the rate of wages paid to coolies in the several British Colonies, will not be considered satisfactory either to the Indian Government or the Secretary of State. I am still, however, under the impression that, with the advantages possessed by the Indian labourer in Grenada, among which I do not reckon as the least the proverbial healthiness of the Island, in consequence of which very few days are lost to the labourer by sickness, he will, at the termination of his contract of service, have saved more money than in some of the larger colonies. Ground provisions, such as yams, sweet potatoes, &c., are easily produced, and it is found that the coolie soon acquires a taste for this description of food. An arrangement has been made with the employers, by which the labourers are supplied with the articles of consumption to which they are accustomed, at cost price: rice, at 2½ d. per lb.; peas, at 2½ d. per lb.; flour (wheat or corn), at 3 d. per lb.; and salt fish, at 3 d. The Immigration Agent, Mr. Cockburn, remarks: "I have reason to believe that already they (the coolies) are saving money, as several have stated their wish to deposit part of their earnings with me." Although the planters will not pledge themselves to raise the rate of wages, some of them stating that property in Grenada cannot afford it, I believe that they would consent rather than forego the advantages they expect to derive from an access to the number of the labouring population. This would bring about a general rise in wages throughout the Island.

24. I am aware that I have replied most imperfectly to your Despatch, and it is with extreme diffidence that I have undertaken the task. Your Excellency being well acquainted with the conflicting views likely to be entertained by persons on such a subject as that under consideration, and with the defective and contradictory nature of the information to which I have had to trust, will, I hope, make allowance for the many incongruities which I fear will be apparent in this Despatch.

His Excellency Governor Hincks,
Barbados.

I have, &c.
(signed) C. H. Kortright.

GRENADA.

— No. 4. —

(No. 24.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Hincks* to the Right Honourable the Lord *Stanley*, M. P.

Windward Islands, Barbados,
27 May 1858.

(Received, 15 June 1858.)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship the arrival at Grenada on the 22d instant of the ship "Fulwood," from Calcutta, with 362 coolie immigrants.

The number embarked was 402, of which 40 died during the passage from various causes. The remaining 362 are with few exceptions in good health. I hope to have the honour of transmitting to your Lordship full returns by the next mail.

I have, &c.
(signed) *F. Hincks*.

No. 4.
Governor *Hincks*
to the Right Hon.
Lord *Stanley*, M. P.
27 May 1858.

— No. 5. —

(No. 30.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Hincks* to the Right Honourable the Lord *Stanley*, M. P.

Windward Islands, Barbados,
14 June 1858.

(Received, 19 July 1858.)

My Lord,

(Answered, No. 19, 17 September 1858, p. 107.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the copy of a Despatch from Mr. President Checkley, together with sundry enclosures, which will I trust supply all necessary information as to the condition of the coolie immigrants per ship "Fulwood."

2. It would appear from the report of the surgeon that great laxity is still permitted at Calcutta. The surgeon states that "many of the coolies were embarked in a miserable condition, weak and emaciated. I can say they were put on board to die"! Again, he observes, that he can "conscientiously say," that many died for "want of nourishment."

3. The authorities in Grenada seem to have been highly satisfied with the conduct of the captain and of the surgeon of the "Fulwood," and to have considered it expedient to award them gratuities in testimony thereof. The immigrants were landed in good health, and have been disposed of among the planters.

I have, &c.
(signed) *F. Hincks*.

No. 5.
Governor *Hincks*
to the Right Hon.
Lord *Stanley*, M. P.
14 June 1858.

No. 54.
5 June 1858.
Enclosure.

Enclosure in No. 5.

(No. 54.)

Government Office, Grenada,
5 June 1858.

Sir,

REFERRING to my Despatch, No. 49, Executive, of the 25th May last, I have now to transmit in duplicate the several documents necessary to afford your Excellency full information respecting the coolie immigrants arrived here by the ship "Fulwood" on the 22d ultimo.

2. Upon the arrival of the "Fulwood" I appointed a committee of five gentlemen to apportion the immigrants to the several applicants, with directions to adhere as strictly as circumstances would permit to the instructions conveyed by Lieutenant Governor Kortright

0.13.

M

to

Encl. in No. 5.

GRENADA.

to the committee appointed by him to allot the coolies by the ship "Maidstone" in 1857, and I have much pleasure in reporting to your Excellency that in the performance of that duty they have exercised a sound and impartial judgment. The distribution of the coolies was subsequently made by the Immigration Agent in accordance with the allotments made by the committee.

Sub-Enclosure.

£. 50. £ 25.

3. By the Immigration Agent's report herewith forwarded, your Excellency will find that the coolies were landed in a very healthy state, and I have also to report that in acknowledgment of the kindness, care, and attention shown to the immigrants during the voyage by the captain and surgeon of the "Fulwood," gratuities have been awarded by the advice of the executive Council of Fifty pounds to the former, and Twenty-five pounds to the latter, both of which sums together with the surgeon's account, amounting to 150 £ 16 s., have been paid out of the funds in the island available for immigration purposes.

4. I have the honour to inform your Excellency that I have drawn a bill of exchange, dated the 2d instant, at 30 days' sight, to the order of W. J. Fitzsimons, commander of the ship "Fulwood" on the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners for 4,147 £. for the passage money of 319 adult coolie immigrants.

5. This addition to the labouring population has been accepted by the agricultural body with the greatest satisfaction, and there is little doubt but that it will conduce materially to the general welfare of the Colony at large.

His Excellency Governor Hincks,
&c. &c. &c., Barbados.

I have, &c.
(signed) F. Y. Checkley,
President.

Sub Enclosure in No. 5.

Immigration Office, Grenada,
30 May 1858.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Honor the President, that the ship "Fulwood," W. J. Fitzsimons, commander, arrived here from Calcutta on Saturday the 22d instant, after 85 days' passage, with 302 coolie immigrants, who were safely landed on the 29th, and distributed amongst the several estates specified in the annexed schedule, as nearly as could be without separating families, in accordance with the recommendation of the committee appointed by his Honor to assist me in regulating the allotment.

2. I feel much pleasure in stating that the immigrants arrived in most excellent condition, stout, hale, and strong, and had every care and attention paid them during the voyage, as is testified, not only in the report of the surgeon of the ship, but manifest in the clean and healthy condition in which they have been landed, not one name being on the sick list.

3. Forty died on the passage, of fever, dysentery, and debility, which prevailed principally amongst the children and the aged; but I am assured that everything was done that could be done under the circumstances for their comfort and relief in sickness.

4. I am satisfied that the provisions of the Imperial Passengers Act and the Indian Emigration Act have been well carried out, and that the terms of the charterparty have been fully complied with.

5. Captain Fitzsimons has called my attention to an apparent discrepancy in the classification of the ages, several of those put down as infants appearing to be above that age, as fixed by statute, from which he complains that his ship will suffer considerable loss, as no passage-money is allowed for infants; but as the regulations direct that the classification shall be made at the port of embarkation, and the age fixed, according to the law of India, at the time of the sailing of the ship (as specified also in the 11th para. of the charterparty), I submit that it is not in my province to re-classify them on arrival here.

6. But as the captain deserves great credit for the evident care he took of them on board, and the unexceptional condition in which he landed them, and as I consider that every encouragement should be held out to ships conveying immigrants to this port, I would respectfully recommend that a bonus of two rupees (four shillings) a head on the total number of souls landed alive be awarded to the commander, and of one rupee to the surgeon.

Samuel Mitchell, Esq., Colonial Secretary.
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) Y. Cockburn,
Immigration Agent.

REPORT on COOLIE IMMIGRANTS shipped at *Calcutta*, in the "*Fulwood*," on the 26th February 1858, and landed at *Grenada* on the 29th May 1858.

	Adults.		Children.		Infants.	TOTAL.
	Males.	Females.	Boys.	Girls.		
Shipped - - - - -	194	124	39	25	20	402
Died during the voyage - - -	14	13	3	5	5	40
TOTAL Souls Landed Alive - -	180	111	36	20	15	362

Grenada, 30 May 1858.

Y. Cockburn, Immigration Agent.

DISTRIBUTION of the COOLIE IMMIGRANTS, per "*Fulwood*."

NAMES OF ESTATES, &c.	Adults.		Children.		Infants.	TOTAL.
	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.		
Waltham Estate - - - - -	6	6	1	2	3	18
Pearl - - - - -	13	6	2	1	2	24
Observatory and Gouyave - - -	16	6	4	2	2	30
River Antoine - - - - -	7	5	1	-	-	13
Beausejour, Dumferline, and Simon - -	13	7	4	3	1	28
Boulogne - - - - -	11	6	1	1	-	19
Paradise - - - - -	8	5	3	2	-	18
Ladigries and Miribeau - - - - -	10	6	2	1	-	19
Mount Horne - - - - -	9	5	2	-	-	16
Woodford - - - - -	7	4	3	-	1	15
Black Bay - - - - -	10	5	2	3	-	20
Mount Alexander and Mount Rodney - -	9	6	4	-	-	19
Diamond - - - - -	5	4	-	-	1	10
Sagesse - - - - -	12	7	2	-	1	22
Clarke's Court - - - - -	5	4	-	-	-	9
Caloviny - - - - -	5	4	-	-	-	9
Laura - - - - -	5	5	1	1	-	12
Lataate - - - - -	5	3	1	-	2	11
Modeys - - - - -	10	6	1	2	2	21
Mount Rich - - - - -	9	5	1	1	-	16
Mount Parnassus - - - - -	3	6	1	1	-	11
Doctor Wells - - - - -	1	-	-	-	-	1
Cockburn - - - - -	1	-	-	-	-	1
TOTAL - - - - -	180	111	36	20	15	362

Grenada, 30 May 1858.

Y. Cockburn, Immigration Agent.

GRENADA.

Port of St. George, Grenada,
31 May 1858.

REPORT on the Immigrants by the Ship "Fulwood," which arrived at Grenada from
Calcutta on the 22d May 1858.

Name of the master - - - - William John Fitzsimons.
Name of the surgeon - - - - H. Horsford Prins.
Date of departure - - - - 26 February 1858.
Number of days on the voyage - - - 85 (eighty-five).
Registered tonnage - - - - 1,160 tons.
Superficies of passengers' deck - - - 6,240 feet.
Number of statute adults admissible - - 416.
Number of such adults actually on board - 350.
Number of crew - - - - 36.
Port at which vessel touched - - - St. Helena.
Date of touching - - - - 29 April 1857.
Days there - - - - None.
If placed in quarantine, state the cause - Nil.

Emigrants Embarked.					Births on the Voyage.		Deaths on the Voyage.				Emigrants Landed.					
Adults.		Children under 14.		TOTAL.	M.	F.	Adults.		Children.		Adults.		Children under 14.		TOTAL.	
M.	F.	M.	F.				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
188	112	45	37	382	-	-	12	13	5	5	176	99	40	32	347	
											Add infants -		4	11	15	
											TOTAL Souls - - -				362	

(Here subjoin any remarks that may be proper respecting the general state of health on board, or other circumstances of importance.)

Having fully and specially reported on the circumstances attending the immigrants by the "Fulwood," I have nothing particular to add to this schedule. The cases of sickness on board were comparatively few, and of the usual character in immigrant ships, and the general health upon the whole good. The ship was clean and sweet, with abundant accommodation for the number on board, and generally the arrangements with respect to food and allowances, and the comfort and safety of the immigrants, have met with my entire approbation; and I certify that the amount payable in respect of such immigrants is 4,147 l.

(signed) S. Cockburn,
Government Immigration Agent.

Immigration Office, Grenada,
31 May 1858.

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that the ship "Fulwood," W. J. Fitzsimons master, arrived at this port from Calcutta on the 22d day of May 1858, bringing 262 immigrants, above 14 years of age; 66 between the ages of 14 and 6 years; and 19 under 6 years of age. That I, assisted by the Health Officer of the port, have personally inspected the said vessel and immigrants, and find that the provisions of the Imperial Passengers Act for the time, as far as the same are applicable, have been duly complied with; and finally, that the amount

amount payable in respect of such immigrants is 4,147 l., say four thousand one hundred and forty-seven pounds sterling.

GRENADA.

Above 14 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	262
Between 14 and 6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	66
Under 6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19

TOTAL - - - 347

Infants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
---------	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----

TOTAL - - - 362 souls.

Dated at Grenada,
the 31st day of May 1858.

(signed) Y. Cockburn,
Immigration Agent.

Sir,

Grenada, 31 May 1858.

In writing a report, required by the authorities in Grenada, as to the state in which I had received the coolies and their health during the voyage, and any other incidents occurring on board, it is incumbent on me to say that many of the coolies were embarked in a miserable condition, weak and emaciated. I can say they were put on board to die. Besides, many had been embarked who I had not examined the day previous to their embarkation, as I had done conjointly with the surgeon of the depôt. Many of those who were to be embarked I had to sign certificates shortly before the vessel was being towed away by the steamer.

2. While examining the coolies at the depôt, I remarked to the surgeon of the depôt that many of the people were in the aforementioned condition. He replied, "They were naturally so."

3. The very first morning the vessel set sail there were a great many reported sick, mostly with chronic complaints, chiefly dysentery. Diarrhœa soon set in, owing evidently to the change of diet and accommodation. The diseases which prevailed during the passage were chiefly bowel complaints, fever of the quotidian intermittent type, and a few cases of cholera, contracted at the bay, when the ship was becalmed, during which time the weather was exceedingly hot and sultry.

4. The diarrhœa was always easily contracted; but the patient, in most instances, died from weakness and exhaustion. Besides, they would never report themselves sick at the onset of the attack; they will hide the complaint until they are prostrate, or till it was discovered by the topass sirdars, or myself. I had repeatedly spoken to them of the danger of hiding their complaints. The cases of fevers always terminated favourably, except a case of common continued fever, which proved very obstinate, and terminated fatally, and a case of typhus fever, which also terminated fatally.

5. The diet allowed for the emigrants will suffice, with the addition of some salt fish as a change once or twice a week. I found that they were well pleased with the biscuits and molasses at 8 a.m., and the rice and dhol at 2 p.m., which they partook gladly, with pumpkins occasionally. The allowance of rice being too large for one meal, at 2 p.m. they had one-third given them, in addition to their biscuits and molasses, and the remaining two-thirds for dinner, at 2 p.m. They murmured at the change; but finding the change agree with them better, I allowed them to murmur, and continued the change for their advantage.

6. The choorah, too, was given as directed. I must strongly urge the necessity for something more nourishing for the sick, as some fowl for broth, or some prepared meat for soup. The latter will answer well, being more convenient to take on board ship.

7. The arrowroot and sago allowed for the sick was given often in combination with port wine. They always refuse this, after the first or second day, as it produces nausea; besides, they labour under the mistaken idea that conjie increases diarrhœa.

8. I can conscientiously say that many of the sick, after refusing to take conjie, and having no inclination to eat rice, died for want of nourishment.

9. The captain was certainly very kind in often allowing some tins of his prepared meat, which was cooked into soup, for the sick; but it is impossible for him to have continued doing so, and supplied the number sick during the passage. Why, most of the children were fed off the captain's table every day. This enabled many of the spare—I should say very spare—to gain strength, and they improved rapidly.

10. As to the treatment the emigrants received on board, I should say, in justice to the captain and officers, it was very kind. If it is possible for one to treat another too kindly, the captain has done so. Their chambers and comforts have been seen in every way. Nothing was wanting, nor was any change proposed, but it was very readily attended to.

O.13.

M 3

I cannot

GRENADA.

I cannot pass unnoticed the third mate, who has been very active and zealous in serving out the stores, chiefly as their diet was changed almost every day until I had acquired a proper standard. He certainly deserves the bonus the (acting) Emigration Agent promised him in my presence—i. e., provided the daily expenditure be kept to the satisfaction of the authorities in Grenada, and as the medical man in charge directs. I am fully satisfied, as the daily expenditure book was brought for my inspection and signature weekly.

11. In conclusion, I must remark, that besides the disadvantages mentioned, we had both topasses sick. At first both took ill at the same time—one with hæmoptysis, the other with rheumatism; again, by the 10th of April, the old topass (Samuel) scalded himself considerably, and was totally unfit for work for nearly three weeks; and, lastly, the other topass (S— Domingo) had an attack of cholera.

12. These are the disadvantages we have met with, disadvantages which cannot be remedied on board ships; yet we have landed the coolies pretty strong and healthy, trusting to the satisfaction of the authorities in Grenada.

To Samuel Cockburn, Esq.
Immigration Agent, Grenada.

I have, &c.
(signed) H. H. Rins,
In medical charge ship "Fulwood."

(True copy.)

Y. Cockburn, Immigration Agent.

ABSTRACT of DEATH and DISEASE on board the Ship "Fulwood."

Names.	Sex.	Age.	Disease.	Date of Attack.	Date and Hour of Death.
1. Rasool - - - -	boy -	4	Diarrhœa - - -	28 Feb. 1858	1 Mar. 1858, 8 p.m.
2. Noonky - - - -	female -	40	Dysent. chron. -	26 " "	2 Mar. " 5.30 p.m.
3. Soondry - - - -	girl -	6	Diarrhœa - - -	5 Mar. "	5 Mar. " 8 p.m.
4. Gangubissom - -	male -	38	Diarrhœa - - -	4 " "	6 Mar. " 5.30 a.m.
5. Rumjaun - - - -	male -	38	Diarrhœa - - -	4 " "	8 Mar. " 12 noon.
6. Mocchee - - - -	infant boy -	-	Debility - - -	6 " "	9 Mar. " 10 p.m.
7. Luckhy - - - -	infant girl -	-	Aphthæ - - -	10 " "	12 Mar. " 10 a.m.
8. Chamloo - - - -	male -	47	Dysent. chron. -	5 " "	11 Mar. " 4.30 a.m.
9. Beelansy - - - -	female -	20	Cholera - - -	11 " "	11 Mar. " 10 a.m.
10. Pogro - - - -	female -	7	Diarrhœa - - -	2 " "	12 Mar. " 10 a.m.
11. Luboo - - - -	male -	13	Diarrhœa - - -	8 " "	12 Mar. " 11 p.m.
12. Brojonaath - -	male -	20	Cholera - - -	15 " "	15 Mar. " 11 a.m.
13. Perlaub - - - -	boy -	4	Diarrhœa - - -	15 " "	15 Mar. " 5 p.m.
14. Tuncoonony - -	female -	26	Cholera - - -	12 " "	15 Mar. " 12 p.m.
15. Loopoo - - - -	male -	13	Feb. quot. int. -	7 " "	16 Mar. " 11 p.m.
16. Gungeah - - - -	female -	44	Diarrhœa - - -	23 " "	29 Mar. " 12 p.m.
17. Luchman - - - -	male -	43	Diarrhœa - - -	9 " "	26 Mar. " 6 a.m.
18. Ransoo - - - -	male -	14	Diarrhœa - - -	26 " "	30 Mar. " 1 a.m.
19. Sungrah - - - -	girl -	4	Anasarcæ, diarrhœa -	26 " "	30 Mar. " 11 a.m.
20. Mungolala - - -	male -	28	Feb. typh. mitior -	28 " "	2 April " 6 a.m.
21. Suson - - - -	infant girl -	-	Debility - - -	6 April "	6 April " 11 a.m.
22. Luckhy - - - -	female -	50	Diarrhœa - - -	4 " "	6 April " 11 a.m.
23. Nunnee - - - -	female -	25	Dys. hæmorrh. -	4 " "	7 April " 8 a.m.
24. Nankau - - - -	boy -	2	Anasar. (diarrhœa) -	4 " "	7 April " 2 p.m.
25. Mohur - - - -	male -	17	Pneumonia - - -	4 " "	9 April " 2 p.m.
26. Dooky - - - -	female -	40	Diarrhœa - - -	10 " "	12 April " 7 p.m.
27. Rungloll - - - -	male -	32	Dysent. chron. -	10 " "	14 April " 12 a.m.
28. Toreo - - - -	male -	30	Dysent. hæmorrh. -	12 " "	15 April " 10 p.m.
29. Sookee - - - -	female -	30	Cancrum oris - -	13 " "	16 April " 8 p.m.
30. Fookeer - - - -	infant boy -	-	Debility - - -	16 " "	16 April " 10 p.m.
31. Sadu - - - -	infant girl -	-	Debility - - -	16 " "	16 April " 10 a.m.
32. Tancoormony - -	female -	35	Cholera - - -	17 " "	18 April " 6 p.m.
23. Dwarkunauth - -	male -	17	Epilepsy - - -	25 " "	28 April " 3 p.m.
34. Chandro - - - -	female -	38	Diarrhœa - - -	28 " "	30 April " 1 p.m.
35. Gendeah - - - -	female -	31	Anasar. (diarrhœa) -	28 " "	2 May " 7 a.m.
36. Nuffar - - - -	male -	26	Cholera - - -	8 May "	9 May " 9 a.m.
37. Dugee - - - -	female -	32	Cyn. pant. - - -	22 April "	12 May " 4 p.m.
38. Moskthee - - - -	female -	40	Anasar., debility -	8 May "	12 May " 8 p.m.
39. Sadu - - - -	girl -	4	Cholera - - -	12 " "	12 May " 11 p.m.
40. Sookoormony - -	girl -	4	Dysent. hæmorrh. -	16 " "	18 May " 11 p.m.

(signed) H. Horsford Rins,
Med. Charge.

Grenada, 31 May 1858.

(Certified to be a true copy.)

Y. Cockburn, Immigration Agent.

NAMES of DISEASES, and the Number SICK in each Disease, Men, Women and Children, from
26 February 1858 to 22 May 1858.

NAMES OF DISEASES.	Men.	Women.	Case.		Infants.	TOTAL.
			Boys.	Girls.		
Apthæ - - - - -	-	-	-	-	1	1
Anasarca - - - - -	-	3	-	2	-	5
Bronchitis acuta - - - - -	3	-	-	-	-	3
Bronchitis chronica - - - - -	2	-	-	-	-	2
Constipatis - - - - -	5	-	-	-	-	5
Colica - - - - -	7	5	-	-	-	12
Cholera - - - - -	3	5	-	1	-	9
Cynanche tonsillaris - - - - -	1	-	-	-	-	1
Cancrum oris - - - - -	1	1	-	-	-	2
Contusio - - - - -	1	1	-	-	-	2
Dysent. acuta - - - - -	6	1	2	-	-	9
Dysent. chronica - - - - -	4	4	1	1	-	10
Dysent. hæmorrhagica - - - - -	1	1	-	1	-	3
Debility - - - - -	-	1	-	1	4	6
Dyspepsia - - - - -	1	1	-	-	-	2
Diarrhœa - - - - -	52	33	15	12	2	114
Epilepsia - - - - -	1	-	-	-	-	1
Feb. quot. inter. - - - - -	25	19	12	6	2	64
Feb. cont. conum - - - - -	-	2	-	-	-	2
Feb. typhus mitior - - - - -	1	-	-	-	-	1
Herpes circinatus - - - - -	1	-	-	-	-	1
Inflam. oculi - - - - -	-	1	-	-	-	1
Isambago - - - - -	1	-	-	-	-	1
Leucorrhœa - - - - -	-	1	-	-	-	1
Otitis - - - - -	-	-	-	-	1	1
Odontalgia - - - - -	2	-	-	-	-	2
Ophthalm. catarrha - - - - -	-	1	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia - - - - -	1	-	-	-	-	1
Parotidæa - - - - -	-	1	-	-	-	1
Parturitio - - - - -	-	1	-	-	-	1
Rheumatismus - - - - -	2	3	-	-	-	5
Vulnus incisum - - - - -	1	1	-	-	-	2
GRAND TOTAL - - -	121	86	30	24	10	271

Grenada, 31 May 1858.

(signed) *H. Horsford Rins,*
Med. Charge.

(True copy.)
Y. Cockburn, Immigration Agent.

Sir,

Grenada, 31 May 1858.

I BEG to enclose you my account against the public of Grenada for passage money of 362 coolie immigrants landed at this port from Calcutta, amounting at the rate agreed to per charterparty to the sum of 4,212 l. sterling.

2. You will notice I have charged for the 10 infants who were underrated at Calcutta, they being far above the one year limited by statute: indeed they were from two to five years of age; and you will bear in mind that I particularly and repeatedly called your attention to this fact while you were inspecting them on board.

3. I shall be a considerable loser if no payment is made for the extra rations issued to the children over and above the quantity rated on the ship's list, and it would be a hard case to let me suffer any loss after the anxious care and attention I have paid to them during the voyage, and the high condition in which I have landed the whole of these immigrants, testified to by the spontaneous approbation of the public at large.

I have, &c.
(signed) *W. J. Fitzsimons.*

(A true copy.)
Y. Cockburn, Immigration Agent.

GRENADA.

Grenada, 31 May 1858.

The Public of Grenada

To ship "Fulwood," and owners.

For passage money of the under-mentioned coolie immigrants, landed here from Calcutta on the 29th instant, as per charterparty, with Charles Eales, Esq., Emigration Agent at that place, dated 28th January 1858:

180 men	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	180
111 women	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	111
36 boys, rated two to one	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
20 girls	-	-	ditto	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
15 infants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	nil.
<hr/>										
362 equal to	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	319
<hr/>										
319 statute adults, at 13 l. each	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£. 4,147

(signed) *W. J. Fitzsimons,*
Commander.

Grenada, 31 May 1858.

(Certified.)
Y. Cockburn, Immigration Agent.

RECEIVED the sum of 4,147 l. sterling, in a bill of exchange, on the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, dated this 2d day of June 1858, in full of the within account.

(signed) *W. J. Fitzsimons.*

Grenada, 2 June 1858.

(Certified.)
Y. Cockburn, Immigration Agent.

Grenada, 31 May 1858.

The Public of Grenada to *H. Horsford Rins*, Surgeon, in Medical Charge of the Immigrants from Calcutta, per Ship "Fulwood."

To professional attendance, during the voyage from Calcutta, on 362 coolie immigrants landed alive at Grenada, at four rupees each, as per agreement with Charles Eales, esq., Emigration Agent at Calcutta, dated 11th February 1858—

	£.	s.	d.
Say, 362, at 8 s.	-	-	-
To amount for passage-money to England, as per same agreement	-	-	-
	£.	179	16 -
By cash received on account at Calcutta, 200 rupees	-	-	-
	£.	159	16 -

Grenada, 31 May 1858.

(signed) *H. Horsford Rins,*
In Medical Charge.

Grenada, 2 June 1858.

RECEIVED from the public treasurer of this island the sum of 159 l. 16 s. sterling, in full of the within account.

(signed) *H. Horsford Rins,*
Medical Charge.

(Certified.)
(signed) Y. Cockburn, Immigration Agent.

— No. 6. —

No. 6.
Governor Hincks
to the Right Hon.
Lord Stanley, M. P.
14 June 1858.

(No. 32.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Hincks* to the Right Honourable the Lord *Stanley*, M. P.

Windward Islands, Barbados,
14 June 1858.

(Received, 19 July 1858.)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the copy of a Despatch from the Administrator of the Government of Grenada, covering an authenticated copy of the Grenada Act, No. 280, intituled* "An Act to promote the Immigration

No. 55.
8 June 1858.
Enclosure 1.
* Vide Appendix,
No. 4, page 300.

gration of Free Labourers from Africa," together with a copy of the Attorney General's Report, and of the correspondence which took place between Lieutenant Governor Kortright and myself.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. Hincks.*

GRENADA.

Enclosure 2.
Enclosure 3.

Enclosure 1, in No. 6.

Encl. 1, in No. 6.

(No. 40.)

Sir,

Government Office, Grenada, 6 May 1858.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency a Bill passed by the Council and Assembly of Grenada, intituled, "An Act to promote the Immigration of Free Labourers from Africa," together with the Attorney General's Report thereon."

I have, &c.
(signed) *C. H. Kortright.*

Enclosure 2, in No. 6.

Encl. 2, in No. 6.

(No. 169.)

Sir,

Windward Islands, Barbados, 13 May 1858.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a Despatch from Lieutenant Governor Kortright, transmitting the copy of a Bill passed by the Council and Assembly of Grenada, intituled, "An Act to promote the Immigration of Free Labourers from Africa," together with the Attorney General's Report thereon; and I have to convey to you my authority to assent to that Bill.

His Honor the President.

I have, &c.
(signed) *F. Hincks.*

Enclosure 3, in No. 6.

Encl. 3, in No. 6.

(No. 55.)

Sir,

Government Office, Grenada, 8 June 1858.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency an authenticated copy in duplicate of an Act passed by the Council and Assembly of this island, intituled, "An Act to promote the Immigration of Free Labourers from Africa," together with a duplicate copy of the Attorney General's Report thereon.

His Excellency Governor Hincks,
&c. &c. &c.
Barbados.

I have, &c.
(signed) *C. Ready*, Lieut. Colonel,
Administrator of Government.

— No. 7. —

(No. 34.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Hincks* to the Right Honourable
Sir *E. B. Lytton*, Bart. M.P.

Windward Islands, Barbados,
10 July 1858.

(Received, 2 August 1858.)

Sir,

(Answered, No. 16. 4 September 1858, page 105.)

WITH reference to Lord Stanley's Despatch of the 27th April, I have the honour to transmit the copy of a Despatch from the Administrator of the Government of Grenada, reporting the concurrence of the Executive Council in the proposition made by the Emigration Commissioners to offer a bonus if necessary to induce coolie emigrants to come to Grenada. I have no doubt that the Council would be equally willing to agree to the shortening of the period of industrial residence, should it be found necessary to hold out such an inducement. I have written for further information on this point, and shall endeavour to add a postscript to this Despatch after the arrival of the mail.

2. I consider this a fitting opportunity to direct your attention to the report of the Grenada Immigration Agent,* which accompanies Lieutenant Governor Kortright's report on the Blue Book for 1857, transmitted in my Despatch of the 10th May. The enclosure is numbered 3, and the point which I particularly desire to notice in connexion with the present correspondence (which

* This will be found in the Reports on the Blue Books for 1857, under the head Grenada.

GRENADA.

(which has arisen owing to complaints from India of the lowness of the Grenada rates of wages, viz., 10 *d.* a day) is Mr. Cockburn's statement of the wages at present actually paid to the coolies.

3. I quote from paragraph 9 of the Report: "Of the survivors it is also gratifying to report that they are doing well. Their employers are quite satisfied with them and they with their employers. They all do field labour, and are considered good hands at weeding and cutting, and although they cannot do as much as the native labourer, they perform their work much neater, and make up in quality what they lack in quantity. Very few have been able as yet to turn out with the first class in 'holeing'; those who do obtain full wages (10 *d.* per day), the others are paid 8 *d.* and 6 *d.* according to the class to which they belong, and all get 3 *d.* for extra hours during crop, so that they can save money, &c."

4. You will perceive from this report that while the Emigration Agent in India has complained of the established current rate of wages in Grenada, viz., 10 *d.* per day, in point of fact "very few" are paid that rate, while 8 *d.* and 6 *d.* are the ordinary wages of the coolies. I do not myself understand precisely the meaning of the phrase "class to which they belong." In Barbados 6 *d.* is the rate given to children, while with others almost all work is paid by the task.

5. My own opinion is, that the rates of 6 *d.* and 8 *d.* are wholly inadequate wages for adult males in Grenada, and if the planters are allowed to classify the labourers under indenture, even with the concurrence of the Immigration Agent, I have no doubt much injustice will be practised. I attach little importance to the statement of the Immigration Agent that the labourers are satisfied. They are not getting justice, and if they are satisfied it must be because they are imposed upon in some way.

6. I ought to mention that I had a conversation on this subject with Mr. Kortright when on his way to England, but I did not find that he concurred in opinion with me as to the labourers being underpaid, and as I find that my views on the labour question differ so widely from those of the Emigration Commissioners and the Governors generally in these Colonies, I have not deemed it expedient to notice the subject to the Administrator of the Government of Grenada.

7. I have no doubt that if Her Majesty's Government were to direct that no indenture should be allowed to remain in force where less than 10 *d.* per day was paid to a male adult, all the immigrants would be taken up at once at that rate in Grenada, or in any other Colony in this Government except Barbados. That is what the Grenada Government itself has reported to be the current rate of wages in the Colony, and it most assuredly must be considered low enough when St Lucia has offered 1 *s.*

8. I have thought it my duty to call your attention to Mr. Cockburn's report, and to the manner in which, in my judgment, the Grenada planters are evading the fulfilment of their own offers.

I have, &c.

(signed) *F. Hincks.*

P.S. — I have ascertained that the Grenada Government would rather give a bonus down than increase wages or diminish the term of industrial residence.

F. Hincks.

Encl. in No. 7.

Enclosure in No. 7.

Sir,

Government Office, Grenada, 25 June 1858.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that your Despatch of the 25th May 1858, Grenada, No 174, covering a Despatch from the Secretary of State, and its enclosures, was brought under the consideration of the Executive Council on the 22d instant. At this meeting it was unanimously agreed, that, for the purpose of obtaining immigrants to this island, the system of offering a-bonus to such immigrants at the port of embarkation should be adopted, provided they cannot be obtained at the rate of wages proposed to be given to them in this Colony.

His Excellency Governor Hincks,
&c. &c. &c.
Barbados.

I have, &c.
(signed) *C. Reedy,*
Administering the Government.

GRENADA.

— No. 8. —

(No. 35.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Hincks* to the Right Honourable
Sir *E. B. Lytton*, Bart. M.P.

Windward Islands, Barbados,
27 July 1858.

(Received, 16 August 1858.)

Sir,

(Answered, No. 15, 4 September 1858, page 105.)

WITH reference to my Despatch of the 24th instant, I have now the honour to report that I have received a Despatch from Lieutenant Colonel Ready, administering the Government of Grenada, in which he informs me that it is the desire of the Council of that Colony that Mr. Caird should continue to act as agent for the present. Unless the co-operation of St. Vincent could be obtained, the plan of a common agency could hardly be carried out, and up to the present time St. Vincent has not been in a position to sustain an emigration of coolies.

I have, &c.
(signed) *F. Hincks*.

No. 8.
Governor *Hincks*
to the Right Hon.
Sir *E. B. Lytton*,
Bart. M.P.
27 July 1858.

— No. 9. —

(No. 42.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Hincks* to the Right Honourable
Sir *E. B. Lytton*, Bart. M.P.

Windward Islands, Barbados, 31 August 1858.

(Received, 2 October 1858.)

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the copy of a Despatch from Lieutenant Colonel Ready, Administrator of the Government of Grenada, being a preliminary Report on the coolie immigrants per ship "Fulwood."

I have, &c.
(signed) *F. Hincks*.

No. 9.
Governor *Hincks*
to the Right Hon.
Sir *E. B. Lytton*,
Bart. M.P.
31 August 1858.

No. 71.
20 August 1858.
Enclosure.

Enclosure in No. 9.

Encl. in No. 9.

(No. 71.)

Government House, Grenada,
20 August 1858.

Sir,

REFERRING to your Excellency's Despatch, Grenada, No. 193, 13 August 1858, giving cover to the copy of a Despatch from the Secretary of State, together with the copy of a letter from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, I have to assure your Excellency that the instructions of the Secretary of State, contained in the 3d paragraph of his Despatch, to send home, at the end of six months from the arrival of the "Fulwood," a report on the state of the immigrants, shall be punctually attended to.

2. As some time must yet elapse before this report can be forwarded, I think it proper that I should state that, since the landing of the immigrants by the "Fulwood," only one death has occurred among them, and this in the case of an old man who was in a debilitated state when disembarked, though not at the time actually sick.

3. The report of the Immigration Agent, which was conveyed to your Excellency in Mr. President Checkley's Despatch, No. 58, Executive, Grenada, 5 June 1858, showed that there were no sick people among them when landed, and the mortality on the voyage had been 10 per cent., that on board the "Maidstone" having been 24½ per cent.

4. The Executive Council have resolved that legislative measures shall be taken for regulating the passenger traffic between Grenada and the neighbouring Colonies.

His Excellency Governor *Hincks*,
&c. &c. &c.
Barbados.

I have, &c.
(signed) *C. Ready*, Lieut. Colonel,
Administrator of Government.

GRENADA.

— No. 10. —

(No. 46.)

No. 10.
Governor Hincks
to the Right Hon.
Sir E. B. Lytton,
Bart. M. P.
2 September 1858.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Hincks* to the Right Honourable
Sir *E. Bulwer Lytton*, Bart. M. P.

Windward Islands, Barbados, 2 September 1858.

(Received, 2 October 1858.)

Sir,

(Answered, No. 26, 23 October 1858, page 107.)

No. 73,
21 August 1858,
Enclosure.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the copy of a Despatch from Lieutenant Colonel Ready, Administering the Government of Grenada, enclosing a Memorandum, exhibiting the arrangements made in that Colony for meeting the expenses of immigration during the approaching season. I may observe, that I have authorised Lieutenant Colonel Ready to assent to the Export Act, which is similar in its provisions to Acts which have been approved of by Her Majesty's Government.

2. In Mr. Murdoch's letter to Mr. Under Secretary Merivale, transmitted in your Despatch of the 29th July, he observes, "To Grenada I presume that no emigrants will be sent during the approaching season, unless funds shall be specially provided for the purpose by the Colonial Legislature." I venture to hope that the enclosed Memorandum will be found satisfactory, and that the agent at Calcutta may be instructed to send a cargo of coolies to Grenada as usual. The necessary funds, I can state with confidence, will be forthcoming.

3. I have transmitted to the Administrator of Grenada copies of the letters enclosed in your Despatch already referred to, but I do not think it probable that it would be considered expedient by the Government of that Colony to make any change at present in the period of industrial residence.

I have, &c.
(signed) *F. Hincks*.

Encl. in No. 10.

Enclosure in No. 10.

(No. 73.)

Sir,

Government Office, Grenada, 21 August 1858.

WITH reference to your Excellency's Despatch, Grenada, No. 188, 29th July 1858, transmitting the copy of a Despatch from the Secretary of State, enclosing the copy of a letter from Sir Charles Trevelyan to Mr. Merivale, together with the copy of a Treasury Minute with reference to that portion of the Imperial guarantee loan apportioned to the Colony of Grenada, I have the honour to assure your Excellency that care shall be taken that the necessary funds be transmitted from this country in due time to meet the payments on the interest and sinking fund on the loan, at the Bank of England, on the 1st January and 1st July in each year.

Sub-Enclosure.

2. I have the honour to enclose herewith a Memorandum, exhibiting the mode in which it is proposed to meet the expenses which will be incurred next year for the interest and sinking fund on account of the loan, and likewise for the payment of another ship-load of coolies.

3. As your Excellency will perceive, from the answers to my messages which I have received from both branches of the Legislature during their late sitting, the degree of importance attached to the importation of coolies by the people of this country, and from the passing of the Export Bill, the means that have been adopted to meet the attendant expenses, I have the honour respectfully to request that you will take such steps as may ensure the arrival of another ship-load of coolies in this island during the ensuing season.

His Excellency Governor Hincks,
&c. &c. &c. Barbados.

I have, &c.
(signed) *C. Ready*, Lieut. Col.
Administrator of Government.

Sub-Enclosure to Enclosure in No. 10.

IMMIGRATION.				£.	s.	d.
REVENUE:						
Cash in Public Chest to 7th August 1858	-	-	-	1,722	-	-
Estimated amount in the hands of the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, being balance of guaranteed loan	-	-	-	2,350	-	-
Due by estates for half passage money of coolies	-	-	-	1,844	-	-
Estimated amount to be raised under the Export Act	-	-	-	2,800	-	-
Ditto - - on consumption of rum in the Colony, under Act No. 212	-	-	-	1,000	-	-
				£.	9,716	- -
EXPENDITURE:						
Estimated Expenses for 12 Months:						
Interest, on Loan	-	-	-	£.	s.	d.
Sinking Fund	-	-	-	280	-	-
Expenses in Grenada, including agent, &c.	-	-	-	350	-	-
	-	-	-	400	-	-
					1,030	- -
Say, one ship-load of 400 coolies during the season of 1859	-	-	-		6,400	- -
						7,430 - -
Estimated available Balance - - - £.						2,286 - -

— No. 11. —

(No. 54.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Hincks* to the Right Honourable Sir *E. Bulwer Lytton*, Bart. M. P.

Windward Islands, Barbados, 19 November 1858.

(Received, 16 December 1858.)

Sir,

(Answered, No. 36, 28 January 1859, page 108.)

WITH reference to your Despatch of the 15th July last,* I have the honour to transmit to you the copy of a Despatch from the Administrator of the Government of Grenada, enclosing the copy of a letter from the Immigration Agent in that island, covering three Returns containing what I hope will be considered satisfactory information regarding the coolie immigrants.

I have, &c.
(signed) *F. Hincks*.

No. 11.
Governor Hincks
to the Right Hon.
Sir E. B. Lytton,
Bart. M. P.
19 Nov. 1858.

* Page 103.

No. 88.
9 November 1858,
Enclosure.

Enclosure in No. 11.

Encl. in No. 11.

(No. 88.)

Government Office, Grenada,
9 November 1858.

Sir,

WITH reference to your letter, Grenada, No. 193, Barbados, 13th August 1858, containing the copy of a Despatch from the Secretary of State, Grenada, No. 11, 15 July 1858, and covering a letter from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners containing remarks on the great mortality among the immigrants, I have now the honour to transmit the copy of a letter from the Immigration Agent covering three tabulated returns showing the deaths that have occurred on the several estates, and the parochial distribution of those who arrived since the last return, and the consolidated form of the whole, deducting the deaths, and showing the total remaining.

His Excellency Governor Hincks,
&c. &c. Barbados.

I have, &c.
(signed) *C. Ready*,
Administrator of Government.

Sub-Enclosure.

GRENADA.

Sub-Enclosure to Enclosure in No. 11.

Immigration Office, Grenada,
1 November 1858.

Sir,

In reply to your communication on the subject of the mortality amongst the coolie labourers in this island, I beg to enclose three tabulated returns, No. 1 showing the deaths that have occurred on the several estates; No. 2, showing the parochial distribution of those who arrived since last return, and No. 3, the consolidated form of the whole, deducting the deaths, and showing the total remaining.

2. The mortality appears to have been confined to the immigrants per "Maidstone", many of whom, from the miserable state in which they were landed, were unable to do anything for months, and had to be fed and attended to at the expense of the estates on which they were located.

3. It is gratifying to observe that the casualties ceased immediately after the termination of the last year, only four having died since, and the remainder are getting on very well.

4. Those per "Fulwood" are suffering a little from "jiggers" and climatic fever, the usual ordeal which they must all undergo, but I have every reason to expect that by the end of the year they will all be restored to perfect health.

I have, &c.

Samuel Mitchell, Esq.,
Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) Y. Cockburn,
Immigration Agent.

(No. 1.)

RETURN of Deaths amongst the COOLIE IMMIGRANTS at Grenada since last Return, viz., from 31 December last to 30 September 1858.

Grenada, Number.	Calcutta, Number.	NAMES.	Age.	Ship of Import.	Location.	Cause of Death.	Date of Death.	Adults.		Children.		Infants.		TOTAL.
								Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
District of St. Patrick														
48	68	Dilchand - - -	50	Maidstone -	Chambord -	Debility -	5 June 1858	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
74	103	Hurry - - -	24	Ditto -	River Salleo	Ditto -	- - -	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
197	265	Urrunt - - -	21	Ditto -	Ditto -	Ditto -	- - -	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
TOTAL - - -								3	-	-	-	-	-	3
District of St. Andrew :														
330	59	Gungaram - - -	45	Fulwood -	La Digne -	Dropey -	1 Aug. 1858	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
TOTAL - - -								4	-	-	-	-	-	4

RECAPITULATION.

	Adults.		Children.		Infants.		TOTAL.
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
Remaining per last return - - -	169	40	14	4	2	4	229
Number imported per "Fulwood" 22 May 1858	182	111	35	20	4	10	362
	351	151	49	24	6	14	596
Less Total of Deaths - - -	4	-	-	-	-	-	4
Remaining - - -	347	151	49	24	6	14	591

Grenada, 1 November 1858.

Y. Cockburn, Immigration Agent.

(No. 2.)

DISTRIBUTION of COOLIE IMMIGRANTS per "Fulwood," classified according to the Districts in the Island.

Number of District.	Name of District.	Number of Estates.	Names of Estates and Employers.	Adults.		Children.		Infants.		TOTAL.
				Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
1	Saint George - -	1	Clarke's Court - -	5	4	-	-	-	-	9
		2	Culiviny - - -	5	4	-	-	-	-	9
		3	Mount Parnassus -	3	6	1	1	-	-	11
			Immigration Agent -	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
			Total - - -	14	14	1	1	-	-	30
2	Saint David - -	1	Laura - - - -	5	5	1	1	-	-	12
		2	Sagesse - - - -	12	7	2	-	-	1	22
			Dr. Wells - - - -	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
			Total - - -	18	12	3	1	-	1	35
3	Saint Andrew - -	1	La Digne - - -	6	2	1	1	-	-	10
		2	Mirribean - - -	4	4	1	-	-	-	9
		3	Ml. Horne - - -	11	4	2	-	-	-	17
		4	Bologne - - - -	11	6	1	1	-	-	19
		5	Dumfermline - -	5	3	2	1	-	-	11
		6	Paradise - - - -	7	5	2	2	-	-	16
		7	Simon - - - - -	8	4	3	2	1	-	17
		8	Pearls - - - - -	12	6	2	1	-	2	23
		9	Conference - - -	4	1	3	-	-	1	9
			Total - - -	68	35	16	8	1	3	131
4	Saint Patrick - -	1	Observatory - -	13	2	2	1	1	-	19
		2	River Antoine - -	9	4	1	1	-	-	15
		3	Lataste - - - -	5	3	-	1	1	1	11
		4	Mount Rich - - -	8	6	1	1	-	-	16
		5	Madeys - - - - -	10	7	1	2	-	1	21
		6	Mount Rodney - -	5	4	1	-	-	-	10
		7	Mount Alexander -	5	4	2	-	-	-	11
			Total - - -	55	30	8	6	2	2	103
5	Saint Mark - - -	1	Waltham - - - -	7	6	2	1	-	3	19
		2	Diamond - - - - -	4	4	-	-	-	1	9
			Total - - -	11	10	2	1	-	4	28
6	Saint John - - -	1	Black Bay - - - -	10	5	2	3	-	-	20
		2	Woodford - - - -	6	5	3	-	1	-	15
			Total - - -	16	10	5	3	1	-	35
			GRAND TOTAL - - -	182	111	35	20	4	10	362

Grenada, 1 November 1858.

Y. Cockburn, Immigration Agent.

No. 3—TABLE (B.)

CONSOLIDATED RETURN of *Indian* IMMIGRANTS at *Grenada*, for the Three Quarters from 31 December 1857 to 30 September 1858.

NAME of DISTRICT.	Number of Estates.	Number Located in Districts.						TOTAL.	TOTAL of Deaths per Return, No. 1.	Remaining in District.						TOTAL.
		Adults.		Children.		Infants.				Adults.		Children.		Infants.		
		Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.			Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
Saint George - - -	3	14	14	1	1	-	-	30	-	14	14	1	1	-	-	30
Saint David - - -	2	18	12	3	1	-	1	35	-	18	12	3	1	-	1	35
Saint Andrew, per last Return.	5	52	8	6	1	1	1	69	-							
Since last Return - -	9	68	35	16	8	1	3	131	-							
	14	120	43	22	9	2	4	200	1	119	43	22	9	2	4	199
Saint Patrick, per last Return.	13	117	32	8	3	1	3	164	-							
Since last Return - -	7	55	30	8	6	2	2	103	-							
	20	172	62	16	9	3	5	267	3	169	62	16	9	3	5	264
Saint Mark - - -	2	11	10	2	1	-	4	28	-	11	10	2	1	-	4	28
Saint John - - -	2	16	10	5	3	1	-	35	-	16	10	5	3	1	-	35
TOTAL - - -	43	351	151	49	24	6	14	595	4	347	151	49	24	6	14	591

REMARKS.

By last Return the deaths were 50 on 283 for seven months ending 31 December 1857: since then, only four casualties have occurred amongst 595, showing the mortality had considerably abated since the turn of the year; and, excepting a few cases of climatic fever and sores from jiggers, all the immigrants are doing exceedingly well.

Grenada,)
1 November 1858. }

Y. Cockburn.

Despatches from the Secretary of State.

GRENADA.

— No. 1. —

(No. 84.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable *H. Labouchere*, M.P.
to Governor *Hincks*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 31 August 1857.

I TRANSMIT to you, for your information and guidance, the copy of a letter from the India Board, with the copy of one from the Chairman of the Emigration Commission, relative to the remittance to India of the property of coolie labourers who may die in the West Indies, and of the earnings which they may wish to send to their friends in India.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. Labouchere*.

No. 1.

Right Hon.
H. Labouchere,
M.P. to Governor
Hincks.
31 August 1857.

India Board,
13 July 1857.
Vide page 114 of
Part I.

Emigration Board,
24 July 1857.
Vide page 114 of
Part I.

— No. 2. —

(No. 95.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable *H. Labouchere*, M.P.
to Governor *Hincks*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 16 January 1858.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 16th October, Grenada, No. 38,* with copy of one from Lieutenant Governor Kortright, reporting that it will be necessary to have recourse to the Guaranteed Loan to meet the immigration expenses for the current year.

I transmit to you a copy of a Report on the subject from the Land and Emigration Commissioners, together with copy of a letter from the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, from which Lieutenant Governor Kortright will find that the monies to meet this expenditure will be forthcoming when required.

It will be seen that the Lords Commissioners have assented to a similar arrangement as regards the immigration expenditure for St. Lucia.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. Labouchere*.

No. 2.

Right Hon.
H. Labouchere,
M.P. to Governor
Hincks.
16 January 1858.

• Page 71.

Enclosure 1,
7 December 1857.
Enclosure 2,
5 January 1858.

Enclosure 1, in No. 2.

Encl. 1, in No. 2.

Sir,

Emigration Office, 7 December 1857.

WE have to acknowledge your letter of 23d instant, enclosing the copy of a Despatch from the Lieutenant-governor of Grenada, in which he reports that the sum at the disposal of the local government for immigration purposes was reduced on the 30th September last to 427 L., and that the expenses of the immigration for the current season will have to be defrayed from the Guarantee Loan Fund.

2. In a report from this office of the 12th October it was suggested that the Lords of the Treasury should be requested to defer raising any portion of the guaranteed loan appropriated to Grenada until the receipt of further communication from the colony on the subject; and, considering the uncertainty which hangs over Indian emigration at the present moment, we are still unwilling to recommend that a loan should be raised which may turn out not to be wanted.

3. It is almost certain that news of the chartering and dispatch of a ship will reach us nearly two months before we are called upon to pay freight, and we should hope that this

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period

GRENADA.

period would suffice for raising the loan of so small as a sum 7,000*L.*; and even if this process should not be completed till a week or two after the freight was payable, we should find no difficulty (with the sanction of Her Majesty's Treasury) in advancing the sum from the balance in our hands.

4. We would submit, for the consideration of the Lords of the Treasury, whether, under these circumstances, it may not be best to defer raising this sum till advice from India make it clear that it will be required.

5. The same considerations apply to St. Lucia, for which Colony we hope that 5,000*L.* or 6,000*L.* will be required in the course of the first half year of 1858, and we would suggest that the same course should be taken with regard to this Colony.

Herman Merivale, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

We have, &c.
(signed) *T. W. C. Murdoch.*
Frederic Rogers.

Encl. 2, in No. 2.

Enclosure 2, in No. 2.

Sir,

Treasury Chambers, 5 January 1858.

WITH reference to your letter of 31st ultimo, I am commanded by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to acquaint you, for the information of Mr. Secretary Labouchere, that, under the circumstances stated by the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, they see no objection to the postponement of the raising of the sums that may be required on account of the guaranteed loans for Grenada and St. Lucia.

Their Lordships request to receive the earliest intimation of the resumption of coolie emigration to these Colonies, in order that no delay may take place in providing funds, should it become necessary to raise the sums set apart for these Colonies out of the amount authorised by the Act 11 & 12 Vict. c. 180.

Herman Merivale, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

I am, &c.
(signed) *C. E. Trevelyan.*

— No. 3. —

(No. 100.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable *H. Labouchere*, M.P.
to Governor *Hincks*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 25 February 1858.

HAVING observed that a large number of liberated Africans have been taken into Sierra Leone, and located among the resident population, I instructed the Emigration Commissioners to take steps for facilitating the conveyance to the West Indies of such Africans as may hereafter reach that port under similar circumstances. I enclose the copy of an agreement which they have accordingly concluded with Messrs. Hyde, Hodge, & Co. I have instructed the Governor of Sierra Leone to use his best endeavours to fill the ships, furnished under this agreement, with such captured Africans as may consent to emigrate. It is, of course, impossible to predict the continuance of these captures, or the degree to which the Africans may avail themselves of the opportunity offered them; but I think it desirable to inform you of the steps which I have taken to secure, as far as possible, to the West Indies, the benefits derivable from the operations of Her Majesty's cruisers.

If the Colonists also desire to take advantage of the 16th Article of the Agreement, it will be necessary to make proper provision for paying the proposed freight of 5*L.* per adult on all emigrants from Sierra Leone, other than captured Africans, and a fee of a dollar per adult to the Emigration Agent who will embark them.

I have instructed the Governor of Sierra Leone to explain to the emigrants of both classes (as far as possible, that they must be prepared, on their arrival, to enter into contracts of service to last for three years, or (in the case of children) till the age of 18. Of course, however, it will not be competent to the Government to impose or sanction such contracts, except in pursuance of some law which is in force in the Colony, on the arrival of the immigrants.

I draw

No. 3.
Right Hon.
H. Labouchere,
M. P. to Governor
Hincks.
25 February 1858.

Vide P. 139 of
Part I.

I draw your attention to this point, in order that the Legislature may make such provision, in accordance with the above instructions, as they may consider to be under the existing circumstances required.

GRENADA.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. Labouchere.*

P.S.—You will find in the accompanying Parliamentary Paper* the former instruction to the Emigration Agent at Sierra Leone, and various documents throwing light on this service. **Vide Parl. Papers, No. 603 of 1850.*

— No. 4. —

(No. 2.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable the Lord Stanley, M. P.
to Governor *Hincks*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 27 March 1858.

WITH reference to my predecessor's Despatch of the 16th January, Grenada, No. 95,* I transmit to you a copy of a letter from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, stating that a sum of 666 *l.* 4 *s.* 11 *d.* is due from that Island on account of immigration services.

I have to request that you will ascertain from Lieutenant Governor Kortright whether he is able to remit funds to liquidate this account, or whether recourse is to be had to the Imperial Guaranteed Loan.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Stanley.*

No. 4.
Right Hon.
Lord Stanley, M.P.
to Governor
Hincks.
27 March 1858.
• Page 99.
18 March 1858.
Enclosure.

Enclosure in No. 4.

Encl. in No. 4.

Sir,

Emigration Office, 18 March 1858.

WITH reference to our letter of the 7th December last, and to your answer of the 18th January, we have the honour to state that, upon an examination of the accounts rendered by Mr. Caird, the West Indian Emigration Agent at Calcutta, we find that a sum of 666 *l.* 4 *s.* 11 *d.* was expended by him in the season of 1856-57, in despatching the ship "Maidstone," with Coolies, to the Colony of Grenada.

2. This sum is included in the advances made by the East India Company to Mr. Caird, and repaid by us to the Company out of the funds in our hands for the Colonies of British Guiana and Trinidad, subject to an ultimate apportionment of the expenditure among the Colonies concerned. The amount chargeable to Grenada being, however, now ascertained, we have the honour to request that the necessary steps may be taken to provide for the repayment to us of the above amount.

3. As the balance of the Immigration Fund on the 30th of September last amounted to 427 *l.*, it is possible that the Colonial Government may be able to pay this small sum without having recourse to the guaranteed loan. If, however, the repayment is long delayed, interest should be charged in favour of the colony of British Guiana, from whose funds the money was virtually advanced in December last.

4. We may add that, as has been usual in the case of British Guiana and Trinidad, we shall forward to Grenada, in explanation of the charge appearing against the colony in our accounts, a statement of the details furnished by Mr. Caird in respect of this expenditure.

Herman Merivale, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

We have, &c.
(signed) *T. W. C. Murdoch,*
Frederic Rogers.

— No. 5. —

(No. 6.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable the Lord Stanley, M. P.
to Governor *Hincks*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 26 April 1858.

I TRANSMIT to you, for your own information and for that of the Lieutenant Governor of Grenada, a copy of a letter from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, reporting that a sum of upwards of 5,000 *l.* is required on account of immigration to that Island.

O.13.

O 2

I have

No. 5.
Right Hon.
Lord Stanley, M.P.
to Governor
Hincks.
26 April 1858.
21 April 1858.
Enclosure.

GRENADA.

I have requested the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury to take steps for raising the portion of the Imperial Guaranteed Loan apportioned to Grenada, amounting to 7,000*l*.

You will inform Lieutenant Governor Kortright that it will not be necessary, should he not already have done so, to remit the sum of 666*l*. 4*s*. 11*d*. to which my Despatch of the 27th ultimo, Grenada, has reference.

I have, &c.
(signed) Stanley.

Encl. in No. 5.

Enclosure in No. 5.

Sir,

Emigration Office, 21 April 1858.

With reference to our letter of this day's date, reporting the despatch of the ship "Fulwood" for Grenada, we have to request that the Lords of the Treasury may be moved, without delay, to raise the amount of the guaranteed loan appropriated to that Colony, in order to furnish funds for defraying the freight due on that ship, which, with the Indian expenses, will probably amount to upwards of 5,000*l*. As the "Fulwood" only left Calcutta on the 26th of February, it is not likely that the freight can be claimed in this country until the middle of June.

2. It will be seen by our letter of the 18th of March, written when we had given up all expectation that a coolie ship would be despatched to Grenada, that the sum of 666*l*. 4*s*. 11*d*. was due to us from that Colony on account of expenses incurred in India in respect of the ship "Maidstone," and advanced virtually from the funds of British Guiana. And we understand that the Colony has been directed to repay us this sum from the Colonial Immigration Fund.

3. Under present circumstances, we would suggest that the Colonial Government should be at once advised, that as money will be raised in England to pay the freight of the "Fulwood," the above debt of 666*l*. 4*s*. 11*d*. will of course be defrayed from the same source, rendering any remittance from the Colony superfluous; and as we perceive that by the terms of the charterparty the freight is payable in cash or approved bills of exchange at the port of disembarkation, it would be desirable to inform the Governor that he is at liberty to draw bills on this Board for the amount due.

4. The share of the guaranteed loan appropriated to Grenada is, we believe, 7,000*l*.; and if this is the case, it will exceed our present liabilities by about 1,000*l*.

Guaranteed loan	-	-	-	-	-	-	£.	7,000
Indian expenses of Maidstone	-	-	-	-	-	£. 666		
Ditto - - of "Fulwood"	-	-	-	-	-	700		
Freight of "Fulwood" (say)	-	-	-	-	-	4,500		
								5,866
							£.	1,134

We have, &c.

Herman Merivale, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) T. W. C. Murdoch.
Frederic Rogers.

— No. 6. —

(No. 8.)

No. 6.
Right Hon.
Lord Stanley, M.P.
to Governor
Hincks.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable the Lord Stanley, M.P.
to Governor Hincks.

Sir,

Downing-street, 27 April 1858.

I HAVE to request that you will forward, for the consideration of the Lieutenant Governor of Grenada, copies of the 45th, 46th, and 47th paragraphs of the Land Board letter, enclosed in my Despatch, Barbadoes, No. 8,* of the 16th instant.

I have, &c.
(signed) Stanley.

27 April 1858.
16 March 1858.
Vide page 55.

GRENADA.

— No. 7. —

(No. 11.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable the Lord Stanley, M.P.
to Governor *Hincks*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 3 May 1858.

I TRANSMIT for your information, and in order that it may be communicated to the Lieutenant Governor of Grenada, copy of a report from the Emigration Commissioners, stating the number of vessels with coolie immigrants which have been despatched to the West Indies during the present year.

I further enclose copy of a letter from the Acting Emigration Agent at Calcutta, stating that the ship "Fulwood" had been despatched to Grenada with coolie immigrants.

I have, &c.
(signed) Stanley.

No. 7.
Right Hon.
Lord Stanley, M.P.
to Governor
Hincks.

Emigration Com-
missioners,
21 April 1858.
Vide page 150 of
Part I.
6 March 1858,
Enclosure 3.
Vide page 152 of
Part I.

— No. 8. —

(No. 12.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable the Lord Stanley, M.P.
to Governor *Hincks*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 8 May 1858.

WITH reference to my Despatch of the 26th ult., Grenada, No. 6,* I have to acquaint you that the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury will take the necessary steps for raising the sum of 7,000*l.* on account of that Island, and that in the meantime you may consider yourself authorised, should it be necessary, to draw upon the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners for the amount required to make the payments becoming due on account of immigration.

I have, &c.
(signed) Stanley.

No. 8.
Right Hon.
Lord Stanley, M.P.
to Governor
Hincks.
8 May 1858.
* Page 101.

— No. 9. —

(No. 2.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart., M. P.
to Governor *Hincks*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 11 June 1858.

I TRANSMIT to you for your information a copy of a letter from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, with the accounts enclosed, so far as they relate to Grenada, submitting the mode of apportionment between the different West India Colonies concerned, of Mr. Caird's expenditure for coolie emigration during the seasons of 1855-6 and 1856-7.

I have, &c.
(signed) E. B. Lytton.

No. 9.
Right Hon.
Sir E. B. Lytton,
Bart., M. P. to
Governor Hincks.
11 June 1858.

7 June 1858.
Vide page 166 of
Part I.

— No. 10. —

(No. 11.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart., M. P.
to Governor *Hincks*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 15 July 1858.

ON the receipt of your Despatch of the 10th May, Grenada, No. 19, forwarding Lieutenant Governor Kortright's Report on the Blue Book for that Island, for the year 1857, I directed so much of it as had reference to the question of immigration, to be referred to the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, for any observations they might have to make upon it.

O.13.

O 3

I transmit

No. 10.
Right Hon.
Sir E. B. Lytton,
Bart., M. P. to
Governor Hincks.
15 July 1858.

GRENADA.

7 July 1858.
Enclosure.

I transmit to you for your information a copy of the answer received from the Commissioners. I have read with much regret the amount of the large mortality which has occurred amongst the immigrants, and I have to request that you will instruct the Officer administering the Government of Grenada, to send home at the end of six months from the arrival of the "Fulwood," (the ship which will have arrived with immigrants from India subsequently to the date of Lieutenant Governor Kortright's Despatch,) the Report on the state of the immigrants suggested by the Commissioners; as I concur with them in opinion that Her Majesty's Government could not allow the immigration to continue if it were to be attended with such a mortality as has occurred amongst the immigrants brought by the "Maidstone."

I request that you will also call the attention of the Officer administering the Government, to the suggestion made by the Commissioners, that an Act should be passed for regulating emigration from Grenada to the neighbouring Colonies.

I have, &c.
(signed) E. B. Lytton.

Encl. in No. 10.

Enclosure in No. 10.

Sir,

Emigration Office, 7 July 1858.

I HAVE to acknowledge your letter of 26th ultimo, enclosing an extract of a Despatch from Lieutenant Governor Kortright, with a report from Mr. Cockburn, the Immigration Agent in Grenada, on the subject of immigration into that Colony.

2. Mr. Kortright states that the scarcity of agricultural labour in Grenada is a source of great anxiety to all connected with the progress of the Colony; that the facility with which land may be obtained causes a continual diminution of the population which work for wages; that there is moreover an emigration of labourers to Trinidad, where the wages are nominally higher, but expenses greater; that under these circumstances it will be necessary to look to immigration to maintain the cultivation of the Island, and that the native labourers, so far from regarding the immigrant with jealousy, look upon him as affording them a future means of escape from the necessity of working for hire. The good effect of the immigrants by the "Maidstone" is to be seen, Mr. Kortright says, in the locality where they have principally been placed, by an increase of the crop of 1858, as compared with the crop of 1857.

3. From Mr. Cockburn's report it appears, that of the 283 immigrants who arrived in Grenada in the "Maidstone" on the 1st May 1857, no less than 50, or 17½ per cent. had died before the 31st of December following. The deaths are said to have occurred chiefly among those who were landed from the ship in a state of weakness, which is corroborated by the fact that the principal cause assigned in the mortality return, is "debility," and that of the whole number of deaths, 25, or exactly one-half, occurred before the end of the first month, while the deaths in November were four, and in December only two. It is added, that notwithstanding the mortality the average sickness had not been more than usual. There can be no doubt that the planters of Grenada will for their own sakes, if from no higher motive, take all the care in their power of the immigrants; but the rate of mortality after arrival will require to be carefully watched, if immigration into Grenada is to be continued.

4. In regard to the survivors, Mr. Cockburn reports that they are working well, and giving satisfaction to their employers; that their work, though not so vigorous, is neater than that of the native; that the best hands earn 10d. and the others 8d. and 6d. a day, and all receive 3d. an hour for extra work; and that although there have been a few complaints of their conduct, only three were of sufficient magnitude to be taken into court.

5. In regard to the native population Mr. Cockburn confirms Lieutenant Governor Kortright's statement as to their disinclination to labour for wages, their satisfaction at the introduction of coolie labourers, and the extent to which they are becoming owners and le-ases of land. With reference to the last point he mentions three estates of 492, 522, and 400 acres respectively, which have been recently taken on lease by persons of this class, and are in a fair way of being made as productive as in former times; and he expresses his conviction that immigration alone can afford assistance to the agricultural interest, and prevent the gradual deterioration of the condition of the Colony.

6. Since Mr. Kortright's Despatch was written, another coolie ship, the "Fulwood," will have arrived in Grenada with immigrants, and it will be very important to watch the mortality among those landed from her, and to trace it, if possible, to its causes. Essential as immigration must be allowed to be to the Colony, Her Majesty's Government would not be justified in continuing it if generally attended with a mortality like that of the "Maidstone." I would suggest that the Lieutenant Governor's attention should be particularly

ticularly directed to this point, and that he should be desired to furnish a report on it at the end of six months from the arrival of the "Fulwood."

GRENADA.

7. The only practical question which arises on this Despatch relates to the emigration from Grenada to Trinidad. The Lieutenant Governor reports that the vessels in which this emigration is carried on are very small and inadequate vessels, of from 8 to 15 tons, carrying sometimes 30 or 40 persons; and that he has been repeatedly urged to bring them by proclamation under the Passengers' Act, but that he cannot fairly declare the passage between Grenada and Trinidad to exceed three days. The motive of those who have urged this course was, apparently, to put an obstacle in the way of the emigration to Trinidad; and Mr. Kortright was of course right in not adopting such a measure as a means of restricting the freedom of the labouring class. It is for the planters to offer such terms to the labourers as shall leave them nothing to desire in Trinidad; and it is impossible not to assent to the opinion expressed by Mr. Hincks in his Despatch of 26th of May last, on immigration into Tobago, that it is a wasteful and unwise policy to import labour from India at a heavy expense to the public revenue, while the planters, to avoid the expense of increased wages which would fall on them individually, allow their native population to be withdrawn from them by the higher wages of a neighbouring Colony. But, on the other hand, it is not right that out of an apprehension of appearing to interfere with the rights of the labouring population the passenger traffic should be allowed to be carried on in a manner which the Lieutenant Governor describes, with evident truth, as objectionable on the ground of morality and decency, and attended with imminent risk to the lives of all on board, in the event of bad weather. The remedy is, not to stretch the meaning of the Passengers' Act so as to bring these short voyages within its scope, but to pass a Colonial Act, making such regulations as the circumstances may seem to require, in regard to the numbers to be carried in vessels sailing from Grenada to neighbouring Colonies, the space to be allowed to each, the amount of provisions and water to be put on board, and the survey and approval of the vessel by a competent officer before she sails. The Passengers' Act will suggest the nature of the provisions to be enacted, which should be limited to what can be enforced before the vessel leaves the ports of the Colony; and care should be taken not to impose any restrictions which are not absolutely required, and which would prove an unnecessary obstacle to the free movement of the population. But Mr. Kortright will of course bear in mind, in determining the length of voyage of a passenger ship, and the stores therefore to be put on board, that he should have reference not to average but to maximum voyages.

Herman Merivale, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) T. W. C. Murdoch.

— No. 11. —

(No. 15.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart., M.P.
to Governor Hincks.

Sir,

Downing-street, 4 September 1858.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 27th July, Grenada, No. 35,* and I have to acquaint you, in reply, that in the event of the resumption of coolie immigration to that Island, Mr. Caird will be instructed to continue to act for it, as Emigration Agent at Calcutta.

I have, &c.
(signed) E. B. Lytton.

No. 11.
Right Hon.
Sir E. B. Lytton,
Bart., M. P. to
Governor Hincks.
4 September 1858.

• Page 93.

— No. 12. —

(No. 16.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart., M.P.
to Governor Hincks.

Sir,

Downing-street, 4 September 1858.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 10th July, Grenada, No. 34,† respecting coolie immigration into that Island.

I transmit to you a copy of a letter from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, to whom I directed a copy of your Despatch to be referred.

With regard to the statement to which you call my attention, that very few of the coolie immigrants who have arrived get the 10*d.* a day which is the market rate of wages for the able-bodied labourers, I request that you will

O. 13.

O 4

instruct

No. 12.
Right Hon.
Sir E. B. Lytton,
Bart., M. P. to
Governor Hincks.
4 September 1858.

26 August 1858.
Enclosure.

† Page 91.

GRENADA.

instruct the Officer administering the Government to cause an inspection of the immigrants to be made, in order that the number of able-bodied may be ascertained, and to report whether these do or do not receive the same wages as the able-bodied unindentured labourers on the same estate.

I have, &c.
(signed) *E. B. Lytton.*

Encl. in No. 12.

Enclosure in No. 12.

(No. 12.)

Sir,

Emigration Office, 26 August 1858.

I HAVE to acknowledge Lord Carnarvon's letter of the 19th instant, enclosing the copy of a Despatch from the Governor of the Windward Islands, respecting coolie emigration into Grenada.

2. It appears, in the first place, that in case it should be impracticable to obtain coolies from Grenada on the terms at present offered, the Council would rather give the coolie a bonus in hand than reduce the period of his residence in the Colony. Of this I will inform the Emigration Agent at Calcutta.

Statement annexed.

3. But I take the opportunity of pointing out that no instructions have reached this Board to despatch coolies to Grenada this season, nor is the balance of the guaranteed loan now available for emigration sufficient to pay for a ship. It amounts to about 2,500 *l.*, which, on the usual estimate of 14 *l.* a head, would not be sufficient to pay for more than 140 coolies.

4. Mr. Hincks draws attention to the circumstance that the coolies who arrived by the "Maidstone" are receiving not 10 *d.* a day (as promised by a memorandum signed by Mr. Walker, then administering the Government of the Island, and dated the 6th of October 1856), but certain rates, varying from 6 *d.* to 10 *d.*, according to the class to which the labourer belongs; "very few" are said to earn 10 *d.*

5. It is said that the coolies are satisfied; but Mr. Hincks says, with undoubted truth, that the question is not whether they are satisfied, but whether they are getting their due.

6. On examination I find that the form of indenture provided by the Grenada Act passed in September 1855, and approved by Her Majesty's Government, declares that the immigrant shall receive the rate of wages paid to unindentured labourers working on the same estate. Specific information being required as to the rate of wages, Mr. Walker furnished the memorandum abovementioned, which was communicated to the Agent at Calcutta, in a letter from this Board, dated the 19th of December 1856. It is plain that this letter could scarcely have reached India before the 29th of January, and consequently that no promise founded on Mr. Walker's memorandum could have been made to the emigrants by the "Maidstone," which left Calcutta on the 27th of that month. The Colonial authorities, therefore, cannot be charged with a breach of faith in indenting the immigrants in terms of their existing Immigration Act. They will, however, be so chargeable if it should turn out that the immigrants by the "Fulwood," (which left Calcutta last February) have been indentured on the same terms as those by the "Maidstone;" and I cannot but add that the Colonists do not appear to me to have acted with that liberality which Her Majesty's Government might fairly have expected of them when they indentured the coolies by the "Maidstone," at a rate of wages less than that which they had stated to the Secretary of State as the current wages of the colony, and far less than that which the same immigrants might have obtained in British Guiana or Trinidad, and very possibly on that account expected to gain in Grenada.

7. Under these circumstances it appears to me a fortunate accident that emigration to Grenada is not going on at the present moment; and I would suggest that immediate inquiry should be made as to the terms on which the immigrants by the "Fulwood" have been indentured, with such an expression of opinion respecting those imported by the "Maidstone" as Sir E. Bulwer Lytton may consider warranted by the above circumstances.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Frederic Rogers.*

STATEMENT OF EMIGRATION COMMISSIONERS' RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
On account of expenses at Calcutta for "Maidstone"	666	12	5	Expenses in India for "Maidstone," and bill stamp	666	12	5
On account of Guaranteed Loan	7,000	-	-	Passag-money of coolies per "Fulwood"	4,147	-	-
				Printing bonds, &c.	4	16	6
					4,818	8	11
				Balance in hand	2,848	3	6
	£.	7,666	12 5		£.	7,666	12 5

	£.	s.	d.
Balance in hand brought down	2,848	3	6
Add further amount to be received from Rock Life Assurance Company	350	-	-
	3,198	3	6
Deduct estimated Indian expenses for "Fulwood"	700	-	-
Available Balance	2,498	3	6

— No. 13. —

(No. 19.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable Sir *E. B. Lytton*, Bart., M. P.
to Governor *Hincks*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 17 September 1858.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 14th June, Grenada, No. 30,* reporting the arrival of the ship "Fulwood" with coolie emigrants from Calcutta.

I transmit to you, for your information and for communication to the Officer administering the Government of Grenada, a copy of a letter from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, on the subject of the mortality which has occurred on board the "Fulwood," as well as on board other ships from Calcutta, together with a copy of a letter which I have caused to be addressed to the Secretary of State for India, calling attention to the mortality and to the doubts which it must throw on the future prospects of emigration from Calcutta, unless the number of deaths can be largely reduced in the next season.

I have, &c.

(signed) *E. B. Lytton.*

— No. 14. —

(No. 26).

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable Sir *E. B. Lytton*, Bart., M.P.
to Governor *Hincks*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 23 October 1858.

In reply to your Despatch, No. 46† of the 2d ultimo, I have to inform you that I have caused the necessary instructions to be conveyed to the Emigration Commissioners.

No. 13.

Right Hon.
Sir E. B. Lytton,
Bart., M. P., to
Governor Hincks.
17 Sept. 1858.

• Page 83.

11 August 1858.
Vide page 176
of Part I.

7 September 1858.
Vide page 179
of Part I.

No. 14.

Right Hon.
Sir E. B. Lytton,
Bart., M. P., to
Governor Hincks.
23 October 1858.

† Page 94.

GRENADA.

missioners for the shipment of a cargo of coolies to Grenada during the ensuing season.

At the same time I must request that you will direct the attention of the Officer administering the Government of Grenada to the irregularity of calling upon the Government to incur an expenditure, without at the same time sending home not only an estimate of monies to be raised, but also an Act of Appropriation.

I have, &c.
(signed) *E. B. Lytton.*

— No. 15. —

No. 15.

(No. 30).

Right Hon.
Sir E. B. Lytton,
Bart., M. P., to
Governor Hincks.
29 Dec. 1858.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable Sir *E. B. Lytton*, Bart., M. P.
to Governor *Hincks*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 29 December 1858.

I **TRANSMIT** to you for your information a copy of a letter from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, with reference to the remuneration of surgeons employed on board the Australian and West Indian immigration vessels.

I have authorised the Commissioners to adopt the scale of remuneration which they have recommended.

I have, &c.
(signed) *E. B. Lytton.*

— No. 16. —

No. 16.

(No. 36).

Right Hon.
Sir E. B. Lytton,
Bart., M. P., to
Governor Hincks.
28 January 1859.
* Page 95.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable Sir *E. B. Lytton*, Bart., M. P.
to Governor *Hincks*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 28 January 1859.

I **HAVE** to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch, No. 54 * of the 19th November last, forwarding certain returns on the subject of the mortality amongst the immigrants into Grenada.

I am glad to find that these returns are now so satisfactory.

I have, &c.
(signed) *E. B. Lytton.*

T O B A G O.

Despatches from the Governor.

— No. 1. —

(No. 22.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Hincks* to the Right Honourable the
Lord Stanley, M.P.

Windward Islands, Barbados, 26 May 1858.
(Received, 15 June 1858.)

My Lord,

I TRANSMITTED without loss of time to the Lieutenant Governor of Tobago a copy of Mr. Secretary Labouchere's Despatch of the 25th* February last, in which I was instructed to forward such a statement of the wages and other advantages enjoyed by labourers in that Colony as could be communicated to the Governor of Sierra Leone, and I have now the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of the correspondence which has taken place on the subject between Lieutenant Governor Drysdale and myself.

2. Although I agree with Mr. Drysdale in thinking that the class of immigrants referred to in Mr. Secretary Labouchere's Despatch can hardly be deemed capable of judging as to the best place for settlement, and that, consequently, it may be necessary for others to decide for them on this point, I am nevertheless of opinion that a grave responsibility must devolve upon those by whom the selection will have to be made; and it seems to me that Her Majesty's Government may fairly require that adequate wages shall be paid by those who obtain labour on such favourable terms in other respects.

3. I presume that the object of the inquiry as to the current rate of wages in the several Colonies is to enable the officer responsible for directing the emigration of the captured Africans to determine as to the most eligible place for settling them; and I have therefore been anxious to supply the most correct information in my power on this point.

4. In the table appended to Lieutenant Governor Drysdale's Despatch of the 23d April last, the highest wages in that Colony are stated to be 1 s. 4 d. and the lowest 8 d. In a subsequent Despatch, the ordinary wages are stated to be 8 d. to 10 d. per day, while it is to be inferred that 1 s. 8 d. can only be obtained by a labourer who performs two tasks a day.

5. When I last visited Tobago I was informed, on authority that seemed to me beyond question, that while the ordinary wages paid by the planters were 8 d. a day, 1 s. 4 d., or double that rate, was freely given by those who were conducting estates on the *métayer* system, under which the profits are divided between the proprietors and the labourers.

6. These labourers have frequently to employ additional hands, and they are ready to pay 1 s. 4 d. per diem, or double the rate allowed by the planters. There are, I think, sufficient data to enable Her Majesty's Government to decide as to a minimum rate of wages to be paid to those whose destination is decided on by others.

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7. The

TOBAGO.

No 1.

Governor Hincks
to the Right Hon.
Lord Stanley, M.P.
26 May 1858.

• Vide page 115.

Lieut. Governor
Drysdale to
Governor Hincks.
No. 25, 23 April 1858.
(four enclosures).
Governor Hincks to
Lieut. Governor
Drysdale.
No. 128, 30 April 1858.
Lieut. Governor
Drysdale to
Governor Hincks.
No. 31, 8 May 1858.

TOBAGO.

7. The planters in the Colony of St. Lucia, belonging to a class of Colonies in which low wages prevail, and who certainly cannot afford to give higher rates than their neighbours in the sister Colonies, have voluntarily proposed to give 1s. per day to male adult immigrants.

8. In Barbados, where labour is most abundant, wages have never fallen below 10 d., and 1 s. is now frequently given. I think then that, considering the rates prevailing in British Guiana and Trinidad, it could not be considered unreasonable if the planters in every Colony requiring imported labour were given distinctly to understand that no contracts could be sanctioned at rates less than 1 s. per diem for the ordinary number of working hours, viz., nine, or the usual task.

9. I think this a favourable opportunity to call the attention of your Lordship to a paragraph in the report of the Immigration Agent of Grenada, which was transmitted with Lieutenant Governor Kortright's report on the Grenada Blue Book for the year 1857. Mr. Cockburn observes, with regard to the coolie immigrants per ship "Maidstone:" "Very few have been able to turn out with the first class in 'holeing'; those who do, obtain full wages (10 d. per day), the others are paid 8 d. to 6 d., according to the class to which they belong."

10. It is a matter of fact recorded by Lieutenant Governor Kortright in paragraph 20 of his report on the Blue Book, that there is a considerable secession from the ranks of the labourers in that Colony, from actual emigration to Trinidad. Mr. Kortright considers it difficult to assign a sufficient reason for this emigration. To my mind, the fact presents no difficulty. Emigrants, as a general rule, desire to better their condition, and it is not surprising that young men, without any ties of family, should seek the highest market for their labour, especially when that market is so near as to be reached by a journey of a few hours' duration.

11. It does not surprise me that many return to their native Island disappointed; but it is not an uninstrusive fact, that they do so "demoralized by their contact and companionship with a labouring people collected from all quarters of the world, and probably possessing all the vices which the amalgamation of a variety of races is apt to produce."

12. Your Lordship will perceive that in Grenada the native labourers are abandoning the Colony, to seek a higher market for their labour; while the Colony is importing from India, at the expense of the entire population, including of course the labouring classes, coolies who are paid with 6 d. to 8 d. a day, although the Immigration Agent at Calcutta complained of the insufficiency of the rate of 10 d.

13. I trust that, in submitting the foregoing facts to your Lordship, I shall not be deemed to have exceeded my duty. I can affirm, with the utmost sincerity, that I am as anxious for the prosperity of the planting interest as the most zealous advocates of unrestricted immigration, and it is because I am so, that I deplore the maintenance of a system, the result of which is the emigration of native labourers from a Colony where their services are required, and into which other labourers are being introduced at great expense, but at rates of wages insufficient for the support of a civilised population.

14. I ought not to conclude this Despatch without urging upon your Lordship the claims of the smaller Colonies in this Government to a proportionate share of the captured Africans who may be sent to the West Indies. I have not the slightest doubt that some thousands could be settled most comfortably in these Colonies, and that the wages which I have indicated, 1 s. per day, would be cheerfully paid by the planters, if they were informed that Her Majesty's Government could not sanction the emigration of the captured Africans to the Colonies, where they would receive less than 1 s. a day.

I have, &c.
(signed) *F. Hincks.*

TOBAGO.

Enclosure 1, in No. 1.

Government House, Tobago, Encl. 1, in No. 1.
23 April 1858.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's Despatch, covering copy of a Despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, communicating the steps he had taken to promote the immigration of captured Africans to the West India Colonies, and requesting to be furnished with certain particulars of information in the event of the Colony of Tobago desiring to share in the chance of the benefits anticipated from such immigration.

2. There cannot exist any doubt as to the necessity of an augmentation of the labouring population of this Island, and that such is the opinion generally entertained will sufficiently appear from the annexed copy of a series of Resolutions passed by the Elective Legislative Assembly on the 16th instant, when a copy of the Secretary of State's Despatch was laid before the House.

Sub-Enclosure 1.

3. Your Excellency will perceive that, so desirous are those interested in the Island to participate in the benefits of an immigration the most suited to these Colonies, that, as the representatives of the people, they have undertaken to guarantee and provide for the repayment to the Imperial Treasury the whole cost attending the introduction into Tobago of a large number of captured Africans.

4. Should this proposal be favourably received by Her Majesty's Government, I have little doubt, viewing the present financial state of the Colony, that the Assembly will be perfectly able to make good its pledge, and considering that Tobago, owing to untoward circumstances, received only one-fourth of the number of African immigrants allotted to the other Windward Islands, I would respectfully and earnestly urge the priority of the claims of this Colony over those of the neighbouring Islands.

5. I beg to annex copies of the Immigration Acts in force in this Island, and under the provisions of which the African immigrants introduced in 1851 were located in the Island.

6. These Acts, I conceive, are capable of being amended in some respects without interfering, however, in any way, with the principles already recognised, and the successful application of which is abundantly testified in the prosperous and greatly improved condition of the African immigrants of 1851, many of whom are now married and have become proprietors of small freeholds, most of them being actively engaged in the cultivation and manufacture of the staple produce of the Island, either as métayers or as day-labourers on the estates.

7. I beg to annex a return, showing the rate of labourers' wages, and other particulars of information in respect to this Island, as an advantageous settlement for immigrants.

Sub-Enclosure 2.

I have, &c.

His Excellency Governor Hincks,
Barbados.(signed) J. V. Drysdale,
Lieutenant Governor.

Sub-Enclosure 1.

Sub-Enclosure 1.

RESOLUTIONS passed by the House of General Assembly this 10th day of April 1858.

Resolved,—That the intimation made in the Secretary of State's Despatch of the steps taken to promote the immigration of captured Africans to the West India Colonies, has been received with much satisfaction.

That at least 2,000 of such immigrants could be received and located in this Island to the mutual advantage of the immigrants and their employers.

That owing to the small number of this class of immigrants allotted to Tobago in 1851, compared with the numbers introduced into the other Windward Islands, the claims of this Colony for a fair proportion of the expected immigrants merit favourable consideration.

That although it would appear to be the intention of Her Majesty's Government to provide from Imperial funds for the cost of the introduction into these Islands of captured Africans, yet so urgent is the necessity of augmenting the labouring population of this Island by means of immigration, that this House is prepared to guarantee and make good to the Imperial Government all costs and charges attendant on the conveyance and introduction into this Island of such captured Africans, not exceeding in the whole 2,000.

(A true copy.)

(signed) Fred. C. Keens,
Clerk of Assembly.

TOBAGO.

Sub-Enclosure

Sub-Enclosure 2.

TOBAGO.

TABLE of Value of Imports, Exports, Rate of Wages, Attendance at Schools and Churches, compiled from Returns for the Blue Book for 1857; Island of Tobago.

TOTAL POPULATION.	Value of Imports.	Value of Exports.	Wages.		Number of Scholars.		Attend- ance at Church.
			Highest.	Lowest.	Day Schools.	Sunday Schools.	
	£.	£.	s. d.	s. d.			
Estimated at 15,679	60,404	76,122	1 4	- 8	1,860	802	6,230

Remarks.—Métairie cultivation is carried on to a great extent in this Colony, to the great advantage of the labourers. Land is to be had in abundance and easy terms.

Attendance at Schools, centesimal proportion to population - - 16 98/00.

Attending Religious Worship, ditto ditto - - 39 73/00.

Note.—The population, according to the Census of 1851, was 14,378.

(signed) *James J. Drysdale,*
Private Secretary.

23 April 1858.

Encl. 2, in No. 1.

Enclosure 2, in No. 1.

(No. 128)

Windward Islands, Barbados,
30 April 1858.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch of the 23d instant on the subject of African immigration to Tobago, and should have transmitted a copy of it, together with its enclosures, without delay, to the Secretary of State, but that I apprehended danger of misconception on a most important point, viz., the current rate of wages which the immigrant labourer will be entitled to receive.

2. I do not understand it to be the intention of Her Majesty's Government to select particular Colonies for the captured Africans, and to compel them to emigrate there. I infer from the Secretary of State's Despatch that the immigrants will be furnished with every possible information to enable them to make choice for themselves, and if I am correct in my inference, it must be obvious that the current rate of wages in each Colony will be precisely the kind of information that will be most interesting to the immigrants, and moreover that, regarding which there should be no misunderstanding, as any erroneous information on this point would lead to serious discontent.

3. You state the wages in Tobago to be from 8d. to 1s. 4d. per day. According to the classes of labourers in Barbados, it would be inferred from such a statement that the wages of children were 8d., women 1s., and able-bodied men 1s. 4d. My impression is that the ordinary wages given are 8d. per day to men and women capable of performing the ordinary tasks.

4. I think that it would be desirable that you should obtain assurances from the leading planters that they are prepared to give 1s. 4d. per day to the imported labourers, or such other rate as they may deem it expedient to offer, and that you should state whether a house and provision-grounds would be granted in addition, and if not furnished gratuitously, on what terms.

I have, &c.

(signed) *F. Hincks.*

His Excellency
Lieutenant Governor Drysdale.

Enclosure 3, in No. 1.

Encl. 3, in No. 1.

(No. 31.)

Government House, Tobago,
8 May 1858.

Sir,

I AM in possession of your Excellency's Despatch, No. 128, 30th April last, desiring some explanations in regard to the rate of labourers' wages in this Colony, stated in my Despatch on African immigration to range from 8*d.* to 1*s.* 4*d.* per diem.

2. In reply, I beg to observe that the ordinary current labourer's wages, both men and women, when employed in field work, may be computed at 8*d.* to 10*d.* per diem, with house and provision-grounds, free to such as desire them; and this, I presume, would be the scale of remuneration allowed to African immigrants on the completion of their first six months' residence.

3. In most instances, however, a certain task or job—say that of making 100 cane holes—is reckoned as a day's work, and paid for accordingly. An able-bodied labourer can easily perform two such tasks in a day, and thereby earn double wages; but there are few who do so, and I should think the untutored African would not accomplish the double task in an efficient manner. When employed in the process of manufacture, some small addition is generally made to the day's wages.

4. It is not unusual, and I have known many instances where 1*s.* and 1*s.* 4*d.* has been paid for a full day's labour, and I have been told of cases where even this rate has been exceeded; and taking everything into consideration, I am disposed to say that an industrious labourer can earn here the full average rate of wages given in any of these Colonies.

5. Moreover, the rate of wages to be given to African immigrants on their introduction into the Colony, if calculated on a scale proportionate to their efficiency as agricultural labourers, would obviously be less than that paid to the intelligent and disciplined creole, and this has been estimated in some Islands at a diminution of from one third to one half of the value of the daily wages of the native labourer. No doubt this disparity gradually disappears as the African becomes more tractable and expert in the use of the ordinary implements of husbandry; but whilst in this state of transition, his labour can by no means be taken to be so productive as that of the resident peasantry.

6. I do not suppose, however, that the mere question of wages will be made to predominate over other and simultaneous advantages to be attained by the allocation of the African immigrants in certain of the Colonies.

7. From the experience I have had of this class of immigrants, I know that they are totally incapable, in the first instance, of judging of those things themselves; they know little or nothing of the value of money, their ideas being limited to simple primitive barter; neither can they be expected to be able to appreciate the civilising influences of education and religion, nor the means for the attainment of these ends.

8. Hence I conceive it will be necessary for others to judge for them; and no doubt it will form part of the duty of the Government, in giving instructions for the distribution of the captured Africans, to impress upon their agents the importance of taking into consideration the collateral advantages offered by the respective Colonies, together with the direct benefits of fair money wages.

9. The instruction and religious teaching of the benighted African immigrant has been strongly urged and imposed as an essential condition in regard to the location of liberated Africans in the West Indies, and in no one of these Islands is there, compared with its population, greater facilities afforded, or more ample means provided for such a purpose, than in this Island of Tobago.

10. The number of public schools in this Colony, and the general attendance of pupils far exceeds the proportion in the sister Colonies, and through the instrumentality of the zealous missionaries long established in this Island, the means of educating the people are being multiplied constantly; aided by free grants of land for school-houses, and liberal endowments by the landed proprietors, all for the benefit of the labouring population.

11. On the completion of their industrial residence, the African immigrants will have before them a wide field for their independent industry, and would, no doubt, soon follow in the footsteps of their predecessors of 1831, who have largely availed themselves of the moral and physical advantages attendant upon their settlement in Tobago.

12. To avoid the possibility of my former statement in respect to wages being misunderstood, I would respectfully request that a copy of this communication may be transmitted to the Secretary of State along with my previous Despatch on the same subject.

His Excellency Governor Hincks,
Barbados.I have, &c.
(signed) J. V. Drusdale,
Lieutenant Governor.

TOBAGO.

— No. 2. —

No. 2.

(No. 23.)

Governor Hincks
to the Right Hon.
Lord Stanley, M.P.
14 June 1858.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Hincks* to the Right Honourable the
Lord *Stanley*, M.P.

Windward Islands, Barbados,

14 June 1858.

(Received, 19 July 1858.)

• Page 109.

My Lord,

(Answered, No. 9, 14 August 1858, p. 115.)

Enclosure, No. 36.
5 June 1858.

BEGGING reference to my Despatch of the 26th* of May last, I have now the honour to transmit to your Lordship the copy of a Despatch from the Lieutenant Governor of Tobago, enclosing copy of three resolutions adopted by the Legislative Council of this Colony on the subject of African immigration.

I have, &c.

(signed) *F. Hincks*.

Enclosure in No. 2.

Enclosure in No. 2.

(No. 36.)

Government House, Tobago,

5 June 1858.

Sir,

Sub-Enclosure.

REFERRING to the subject of my Despatch, No. 25, of the 23d April last, I have now the honour to forward to your Excellency for transmission to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, copy of three resolutions adopted by the Legislative Council of this Island, on the subject of African immigration.

His Excellency Governor Hincks,
Barbados.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. V. Drysdale*,
Lieutenant Governor.

Sub-Enclosure.

RESOLUTIONS passed by the House of Legislative Council, this 21st day of May 1858.

Resolved,—

1. That feeling impressed with the expediency and necessity of immigration as a means of restoring the agricultural prosperity of the Island; this House learns with much satisfaction that steps have been taken by Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, for the promotion of so important an object.

2. That this House is willing and ready to co-operate in any measure which may be considered necessary for the due care and supervision of such of the African immigrants, proposed to be sent to these Colonies, as may be allotted to this Island, and this House further pledges itself to concur in any grant of money that may be appropriated for the purpose of defraying the cost of the introduction of such immigrants.

3. That a copy of these Resolutions be transmitted through the Honourable the President to his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor.

(A true copy.)

Council Chamber, 21 May 1858.

(signed) *Edw. M. Sanderson*,
Clerk of Legislative Council.

Despatches from the Secretary of State.

— No. 1. —

(No. 69.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable *H. Labouchere*, M.P.
to Governor *Hincks*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 25 February 1858.

HAVING observed that a great number of liberated Africans have been taken into Sierra Leone, and located among the resident population, I instructed the Emigration Commissioners to take steps for facilitating the conveyance to the West Indies of such Africans as may hereafter reach that port, under similar circumstances. I enclose the copy of an agreement which they have accordingly concluded with Messrs. Hyde, Hodge, & Co. I have instructed the Governor of Sierra Leone to use his best endeavours to fill the ships furnished under this agreement with such captured Africans as may consent to emigrate. It is, of course, impossible to predict the continuance of these captures, or the degree to which the Africans may avail themselves of the opportunity offered them; but I think it desirable to inform you of the steps which I have taken to secure as far as possible to the West Indies the benefits derivable from the operations of Her Majesty's cruisers. If the Colony of Tobago desires to share in the chance of these benefits, I should wish you to forward to me such a statement of the wages and other advantages enjoyed by labourers in that Colony as I may communicate to the Governor of Sierra Leone.

If the colonists also desire to take advantage of the 16th Article of the Agreement, it will be necessary to make proper provision for paying the proposed freight of 5 *l.* per adult on all emigrants from Sierra Leone, other than captured Africans, and a fee of a dollar per adult to the Emigration Agent who will embark them.

I have instructed the Governor of Sierra Leone to explain to the emigrants of both classes (as far as possible) that they must be prepared on their arrival to enter into contracts of service to last for three years, or (in the case of children) till the age of eighteen; of course, however, it will not be competent for the Government to impose or sanction such contracts, except in pursuance of some law which is in force in the Colony on the arrival of the immigrants. I draw your attention to this point in order that the Legislature may make such provision, in accordance with the above instructions, as they may consider to be, under the existing circumstances, required.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. Labouchere*.

P. S.—You will find in the accompanying Parliamentary Paper the former Parl. Pap. No. 603 Instruction to the Immigration Agent at Sierra Leone, and various documents of 1850. throwing light on this service.

No. 1.
Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P., to Governor Hincks.
25 February 1858.

Vide page 139 of Part I.

— No. 2. —

(No. 9.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable Sir *E. B. Lytton*, Bart. M.P.
to Governor *Hincks*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 14 August 1858.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 14th June, Tobago, No. 23,* with a Despatch from Lieutenant Governor Drysdale, forwarding copy of three Resolutions adopted by the Legislative Council of that island on the subject of African immigration.

I have, &c.
(signed) *E. B. Lytton*.

No. 2.
Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart., M.P., to Governor Hincks.
14 August 1858.

* Page 114.

ST. VINCENT.

Despatches from the Governor.

ST. VINCENT.

— No. 1. —

No. 1.

(No. 86.)

Governor Hincks
to the Right Hon.
H. Labouchere, M.P.
9 November 1857.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Hincks* to the Right Honourable
H. Labouchere, M. P.

Windward Islands, Barbados, 9 November 1857.
(Received, 3 December 1857.)

Sir,

(Answered, No. 14, 27 May 1858, p. 142.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you authenticated transcripts of four Acts
of St. Vincent, viz. :—

1st. No. 702. An Act to alter the law of contracts with regard to immigrants, and for the encouragement of immigration, and for the general regulation of immigrants.

2nd. No. 703. An Act for laying an additional tax on produce, to provide a fund for immigration purposes.

3rd. No. 704. An Act to appropriate a portion of the general revenue for immigration purposes.

4th. No. 705. An Act to authorise the raising of loans of money for immigration purposes, and to secure and provide for the repayment of such loans.

The Attorney General's report accompanies each of these Acts, and I transmit a copy of my correspondence with Mr. Walker, Administrator of the Government of St. Vincent, with reference to them.

2. You will learn from the correspondence, that these are not the Acts originally passed by the St. Vincent Legislature. The Act No. 1, submitted for my Instructions in Mr. Walker's Despatch of the 1st August, No. 96, contained, as will appear from paragraph 4, a provision legalising contracts with Portuguese and Americans for a period of five years. This provision being in direct opposition to the policy of Her Majesty's Government, I was under the necessity of instructing Mr. Walker to invite the Legislature to reconsider the Bill, and I availed myself of the opportunity to suggest other amendments to it.

3. The new Act has been passed in strict accordance with Mr. Walker's Message to the Legislature, which accompanies his Despatch of the 9th October, No. 118; but while my objection regarding the duration of the contract has been removed, and while, as Mr. Walker observes in paragraph 3, of No. 118, the principles laid down in my Despatch have been carried out, they have been completely neutralised by a most important alteration in the proportion of the expense which I suggested should be borne by the employer. This alteration was made, as Mr. Walker observes in the same paragraph, after a lengthened conference with the Executive Council, who seem to have considered that so long as the planting interest collectively had to pay the immigration expenses, it was of little consequence how much the individual employers should be required to contribute.

4. I cannot concur in this reasoning; it appears to me that the principle being recognised, that the immigration fund, on which must be borne all the preliminary expenses in India and elsewhere, should be raised from the proprietors of estates generally, both sound policy and equity dictate that a large share of the
other

Vide Appendix,
No. 8, page 305.
Vide Appendix,
No. 9, page 318.
Vide Appendix,
No. 10, page 319.
Vide Appendix,
No. 11, page 320.

other expenses should fall on those who obtain the benefit of the labour of the immigrants.

5. Though I considered that the employer might fairly be required to pay to the fund the full amount of the bounty or passage money, yet I thought it more proper that I should recommend what had obtained the previous sanction of Her Majesty's Government.

6. In British Guiana, the employer is required to pay 50 dollars for a three years' contract, twenty of which are returnable to him in case the labourer should not be re-indentured. Thus the payment by the employer in Guiana is ten dollars a year, or 2*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.* sterling. In Grenada the payment is one-half the bounty or passage money for a three years' contract. The passage money from India may be estimated at 15*l.*, one-half of which would be 7*l.* 10*s.*, or 2*l.* 10*s.* sterling per annum. Under the St. Vincent Act the employer would have to pay 7*l.* 10*s.*, but is to be reimbursed 3*l.* in case the labourer should not be re-indentured at the end of his three years' contract. His actual contribution to the fund, therefore, is 1*l.* 10*s.* per annum.

7. I had objected to the provision in the Guiana Ordinance, and which is found also in the Grenada Act, under which the planter, in case of a re-indenture after five years, is only required to pay to the immigration fund 7 dollars, or 1*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.* per annum, the payment being actually less in both those Colonies for an experienced labourer than for a raw hand.

8. Mr. Walker, in the last paragraph of his Message, refers to my objection, and anticipates that it will be removed. I must however observe, that I objected to this payment as too small a proportion of the cost of the back passage; but though in the St. Vincent Act the principle which I laid down has been adopted, yet, owing to the reduced annual contribution from the employer during the first five years, the immigration fund will actually receive less in that Colony than either in British Guiana or Grenada.

9. I respectfully submit these objections to the St. Vincent Immigration Act. Having fully stated my views to the Government of that Colony, and having obtained the reconsideration and amendment of the Bill, I did not feel myself justified in offering any further obstruction to its passage, but I cannot recommend its confirmation in its present shape.

10. The original Act, No. 2, for levying an additional tax on exports for immigration purposes was objected to by me, because it included several articles the products of the industry of individuals who will not be directly benefited by immigration. I consider that this Act has been materially improved by the omission of charcoal and fire-wood. There is no probability that cotton will be exported in any quantity, and I look upon its introduction as merely nominal; still I think it unjust in principle to levy an export tax on the very few cotton growers in the Grenadines. Cocoa is not produced to any extent in St. Vincent. The cultivation of arrowroot is rapidly extending; and I do not concur with Mr. Walker in opinion, that because it is grown on some sugar estates, and by a few large proprietors, it is expedient to tax all the small cultivators of this article to defray the expenses of immigration. On the contrary, I believe that the produce of the tax will be small, and the irritation created very great. Adopting the precedent which I found in the St. Lucia Ordinance, I recommended that the sugar proprietors, who alone demand immigration, should bear its expenses, and that sugar, rum, and molasses should be the only articles taxed.

11. Act, No. 3, as originally passed, provided that the general revenue should contribute permanently to the immigration fund a sum equal to the amount of the export tax. I objected to this provision, but after discussing the subject with Mr. Walker during his short visit to Barbados, I waved my objection so far as to consent to an appropriation from the general revenue, to an amount not exceeding that of the debt which, having been a legitimate charge on the public generally, was, in the time of financial pressure, provided for by a tax on exports and incomes, which falls chiefly on the planting interest. I have therefore no objection to make to the amended Act.

12. No. 4 is an Act authorising a small loan for immigration purposes, and appears to me unobjectionable.

13. I have treated the labour question so fully in my Despatches by this mail with reference to the rates of wages in St. Lucia and Grenada, that it is unnecessary for me to refer to it at any length on the present occasion. My remarks with regard to Grenada are not inapplicable to St. Vincent; the rate of wages

ST. VINCENT. is about the same in both, and the cost of production cannot be materially different. The same vicious system of mixing up the questions of rent and wages prevails in St. Vincent. The labourers' tenure is a tenancy at will, and wages are, I believe, paid monthly.

I have, &c.
(signed) *F. Hincks.*

Encl. 1, in No. 1.

Enclosure 1, in No. 1.

(No. 96.)

Government House, St. Vincent,
1 August 1857.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to submit for your Excellency's Instructions "An Act," which has been passed by the Council and Assembly of this island, "to alter the law of contracts with regard to immigrants, and for the encouragement of immigration, and for the general regulation of immigrants;" together with the usual report of the Attorney General thereon.

2. The provisions of this Bill are, with one or two exceptions, to which I shall presently invite your Excellency's attention, identical with those of the Grenada Immigration Act; and it embraces all the amendments and additions which, in accordance with the Secretary of State's Instructions, were passed as supplements to the main Bill in July and September 1856.

3. The first deviation from the Grenada law is in clause 3 of the present Bill, which prescribes the rates of bounty to be paid to private importers: instead of declaring that such parties would be entitled to one-half of the bounty named in the Governor's Proclamation for fixing the rates, it is enacted that a moderate fixed sum shall be paid, upon proper conditions, on each adult and child introduced at the cost of a private planter. It is felt that some time must elapse before any public immigration, under the auspices of Her Majesty's Government, can be accomplished, and indeed before the means for defraying the expense will be realised; and the intention of this provision is, in the meantime, to encourage the private enterprise of those individuals connected with the island, whose means may enable them to seek for immigrants on their own account, either at the Cape de Verd Islands or elsewhere.

4. The next point of difference from the Grenada law you will find in the 14th clause, where the period of contract with Portuguese or Americans is extended, as in the case of the Chinese, to five years. I could have wished that the Legislature had avoided this alteration, but the Members from both Houses who waited on me on the subject, stated that it would be vain to expect any exertions in the cause of immigration on the part of individuals, unless with the prospect of receiving the same benefit from their extended service as the Colony generally would be allowed to do in the case of the coolies.

5. Both the alterations, therefore, to which I have adverted originate in the same motive—the desire to encourage private enterprise.

6. The third and only remaining point in which deviation has been made from the Grenada law is in the 45th clause of the present Bill, where they have increased the penalty on harbouring or enticing away immigrants from the parties to whom they are under contract from 4*l.* to 10*l.*, and have doubled the daily fine to be inflicted on the offender for each day the immigrant is absent. This change I do not consider to be of any consequence, though it is apt to create an unfavourable opinion of the manner in which the planters themselves regard each other.

7. I trust that these alterations will not induce your Excellency to withhold your authority to me to assent to this Bill. From another Colony I had occasion, last year, to say to you that I was no advocate for a promiscuous immigration into these islands. I should be sorry to see St. Vincent, for a mere passing crop or two, burthening herself, and her children yet unborn, with responsibilities in which an extensive coolie immigration would inevitably involve her; and sure I am that, while it would clog and most probably mar her future energies, there would be nothing in the moral or religious character of its new inhabitants which would compensate her for her difficulties, or assist her in surmounting them.

The African is undoubtedly the natural cultivator of the soil in the West Indies. The destiny of these islands has perhaps been fulfilled. They may have already served the inscrutable purpose for which they were created; but with our material tendencies we are often not satisfied unless we can affect to comprehend or to foresee the wise designs of the Creator; and that as we have been able to discover in many of His works, so we may be able to trace in all the beautiful and wonderful uses for which they have been brought into existence. In this train of mind, it is not very unpardonable to imagine that the vast tracts of rich and fertile land throughout these Colonies, and on the neighbouring main, which have never been cultivated, or even, as far as we know, been traversed by man, may be still doomed to some more useful fate than their present luxuriant waste; and that in St. Vincent, for example, the fine forest and mountain woodlands of the interior were not made merely to attract a few passing showers for the scanty estates which dot a part of its coast.

It is no idle dream, then, that in the regeneration of Africa lies the destiny of these Colonies. It is very likely that the work has been going on gradually for the last half century; that it may, in fact, have originated in the slave trade itself, with all its horrors, without which

Africa

Africa might have been as unheeded, and the negro as little known as Patagonia and its inhabitants, and that the current of events having at last led to the growth and manufacture of tropical produce by free African labour, it now only remains for us to promote that intercourse which the white man has been unable yet to open with the African continent, by extricating countless numbers of negroes from their present condition of darkness and slavery, and enabling them to resort to a country where light and freedom would be secured to them, with a large future, either in the acquisition of land, or in their return with other sources of independence to their native land.

Participating to some extent in these sanguine ideas, and knowing from actual observation the superior physical qualities of the African for labour in the tropics, and his ductile disposition to imbibe sound religious impressions, I candidly confess that I expect no great benefit to the West Indies or to St. Vincent from the operation of this additional Immigration Bill, and that I look with more hope to the movement, surrounded though it may be with difficulties and doubts, which is now being made at home to induce the British Government to sanction and assist a free immigration from the coast of Africa to this country. Still, as the proprietors and people of St. Vincent have asked for it, I trust that what has been freely given to other Colonies will not be withheld from this.

His Excellency the Governor in Chief,
Barbados.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Ja. Walker.*

Enclosure 2, in No. 1.

Encl. 2, in No. 1.

(No. 97.)

Sir,

Government House, St. Vincent, 1 August 1857.

I HAVE the honour, with reference to my Despatch of this day's date, No. 96, to submit to your Excellency three Acts passed by the Council and Assembly of St. Vincent, intituled, "An Act to amend the Export Tax Act, 1856, and for laying an addition Tax on Produce, to provide a Fund for Immigration Purposes."

"An Act to appropriate a portion of the General Revenue for Immigration Purposes."

"An Act to authorise the raising of Loans of Money for Immigration Purposes, and to secure and provide for the Repayment of such Loans."

The usual reports of the Attorney General accompany each of these Bills.

2. The effect of the first of these Bills is to double the export tax laid at the end of 1856, to assist in paying off the loan; and also to levy a duty of 1s. on each cord of wood and each barrel of charcoal exported. The second is to authorise the transfer from the general revenue to the immigration fund of a sum equal to the amount which may be raised by the first Bill. And by the third enactment it is proposed to authorise the raising of such sums of money as may be necessary for immigration purposes, for the repayment of which the public revenue generally, and the proceeds of the two first Bills specially, are pledged.

3. Altogether, I am of opinion that these measures deserve to be assented to.

4. The first enactment is certainly a direct impost on the planters themselves; the second, the payment from the general revenue, may not be unfairly regarded as the addition which that revenue will derive from the increased consumption of the immigrants.

5. If it could fairly be said that there was any undue disposition here to make the labouring class pay for measures which are not intended for their benefit, nobody would go to work more earnestly than myself to endeavour to counteract such a disposition; but to any such charge the Legislature of St. Vincent will find a sufficient answer in the readiness with which, when the Colony was in difficulties in 1856, they came forward and passed two Acts to meet the public debt, by one of which they laid a tax on their produce, and by the other a tax on all incomes above 50 £.

His Excellency the Governor in Chief,
Barbados.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Ja. Walker.*

Enclosure 3, in No. 1.

Encl. 3, in No. 1.

(No. 175.)

Sir,

Windward Islands, Barbados, 19 September 1857.

YOUR Despatch of the 1st ultimo, No. 96, Legislative, transmitting the copy of an Act passed by the Council and Assembly of St. Vincent, intituled, "An Act to alter the Law of Contracts with regard to Immigrants and for the encouragement of Immigration, and for the general Regulation of Immigrants," has engaged my best consideration.

2. I regret that this Act contains a provision that will render it impossible for me to authorise you to assent to it; I refer to the extension of the term of contract from three years to five. It seems to be imagined that the principle of a five years' contract has been sanctioned in the case of the Chinese; but on comparing the 13th clause of the Grenada Act with the 22d, it will be found that the former is controlled by the latter. The object of legalising contracts with Chinese for five years was to secure employment to the labourer, and it was therefore necessary to provide elsewhere for their termination at his option.

3. I am persuaded that Her Majesty's Government will not sanction contracts of a longer duration than three years; but I am inclined to think that the object which the St. Vincent Legislature had in view may be accomplished in another way.

4. I presume that that object was to secure an industrial residence of five years, and that it

ST. VINCENT. it would be met by requiring a re-indenture for one or two years, or a payment of 2*l.* 10*s.* or 5*l.* by way of commutation.

5. I transmit herewith copies of some late Guiana Ordinances, and you will find that the provisions of No. 25 of 1856, in reference to this branch of the question, might be adopted in St. Vincent.

6. As it will be necessary that the Bill should undergo the re-consideration of the Legislature, I shall give you my views upon some other points in which I think it is susceptible of improvement.

7. It is provided that when immigration is carried on by private importers a fixed sum of 4*l.* or 2*l.* should be paid to them from the treasury for each immigrant.

8. It is further provided that when the immigration is conducted by the Government, the employer shall pay towards the fund one-half of the bounty or passage-money; I am of opinion that the same principle should be applied in both cases. There is, perhaps, sufficient information on the subject to enable the Legislature to determine the precise sum to be paid or received according to circumstances; on the other hand, there is an advantage in leaving the amount indefinite.

9. It is however obvious that the change which it will be necessary to make regarding the duration of the contracts will materially affect the provisions of the Bill, which are now under consideration.

10. The first point to be determined is the amount which should be contributed by the employer of the labourer towards the immigration fund, and this has been settled elsewhere to be about two-thirds the bounty or passage money for a five years' contract, or 50 dollars on each coolie labourer; the employer becomes liable for that specific sum in British Guiana; but in case there should not be a re-indenture at the end of three years, he is only called on to pay 30 dollars.

11. This is considered an equitable arrangement, and has been sanctioned by Her Majesty's Government; and it is therefore most desirable that it should be assumed as the basis of the legislation in St. Vincent. -

12. I see no object in naming 4*l.* as the specific sum to be paid to the private importer instead of one-third the actual bounty, unless with a view of guarding against the possibility of a very low rate of bounty being fixed by the Executive under the previous clause. It would perhaps be better that the payment to the private importer should be one-third the bounty, and that such bounty should not be less than 12*l.* on a five years' contract, or 7*l.* 10*s.* on one of three years. The Government must establish different rates of bounty according to the periods of industrial residence, and, therefore, the sum payable to the private importer must vary according to the nature of his contract. A contribution from the employer to the fund of one-half the bounty or passage-money would be fair enough in the case of coolies who are bound to an industrial residence of five years, as the immigration fund would derive the benefit of a further contribution on re-indenture or commutation, but one-half is not sufficient for a five years' contract; and it is to be observed that, if a contribution of two-thirds the bounty or passage-money should be determined on, the planter should only be called upon to pay three-fifths of that amount at the period of contracting, the remaining two-fifths being payable on re-indenture.

14. It will be necessary to provide that in the case of private importers they shall be entitled to two-fifths of their proportion of the bounty at the end of the three years' contract if the immigrant should be re-indentured to another party, or should commute his last two years of industrial residence by a payment to the colonial treasury; the commutation money to be paid by the emigrant should in all cases be 2*l.* 10*s.* per annum.

15. I strongly recommend that the amount which the employers of labour shall be made liable to pay for a three years' contract should be required in cash. The Bill provides that it shall be payable by instalments, with interest.

16. Judging from the operation of the system in Grenada, the amounts would vary from 300 dollars to 900 dollars for each planter, and I have no doubt that it will be much easier for individuals to obtain credit, should they require it, for such small sums, than for the Colony to raise the aggregate amount by loan.

17. I object to the provisions in the 55th clause, which applies especially to coolie immigrants, and by which the employer is required to contribute to the immigration fund 1*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.* per annum on all contracts entered into after a five years' residence. The annual rate should be the same during the second five years' residence as during the first. It is true that the coolie is only required to contribute 35 dollars to the immigration fund, towards a back passage, but that amount would fall far short of furnishing him with one, and has been fixed, I presume, in consideration of the indirect benefits which must result to the Colony from his residence, even though he should not be under contract. But in case he should enter into a new indenture, it is obvious that his employer ought to pay a contribution to the fund equal to what he paid annually during the first five years, and which is only a proportion of the expense of passage money. It is to be observed too, that if the coolie contributes by instalments to the fund, he is required to pay 12 dollars annually.

18. I should hope that you will have no difficulty in obtaining the consent of the St. Vincent Legislature to an amended Bill, embodying the principles which I have laid down in this Despatch, in which case I have to authorise you to assent to it in Her Majesty's name.

His Honor the Administrator,
St. Vincent.

I have, &c.
(signed) F. Hincks.

ST. VINCENT.

Encl. 4, in No. 1.

Enclosure 4, in No. 1.

(No. 176.)

Sir,

Windward Islands, Barbados, 19 September 1857.

I HAVE had under my consideration your Despatch of the 1st ultimo, No. 97, Legislative, transmitting copies of three Acts passed by the Council and Assembly of St. Vincent, and respectively intituled, "An Act to amend the Export Tax Act, 1856, and for laying an additional tax on produce to provide a fund for Immigration purposes;" "An Act to appropriate a portion of the General Revenue for Immigration purposes;" and "An Act to authorise the raising of Loans of Money for Immigration purposes, and to secure and provide for the repayment of such Loans," together with the usual reports of the Attorney General thereon.

2. These Acts depend in a great degree on one another, and also on the General Immigration Act, which forms the subject of another Despatch of even date with this.

3. I regret very much that it is not in my power to authorise you to assent to these Bills, but I find that an important principle is involved in them, on which I have formed a decided opinion.

4. That opinion is, that those for whose benefit immigration is carried on should bear the expense of it. I am well aware that a different principle has been sanctioned in other Colonies on former occasions, but I consider that all legislation on the subject of immigration has been, in a great degree, experimental, and that the injustice of compelling the labouring classes to pay for the importation of labour to compete with their own, has been of late years fully recognised. I feel that an increased responsibility devolves upon the Executive with reference to questions in which the labouring classes are interested, owing to the fact that they are wholly unrepresented in the Legislatures of the West India Colonies.

5. I willingly admit the liberality manifested by the Legislature of St. Vincent with reference to the provision made for the public debt, which obviously would have been a legitimate charge on the general revenue.

6. I should, therefore, have no objection, if an immigration fund were established, to be raised as in St. Lucia, by an export tax upon sugar, rum, and molasses, that the general revenue should be charged with a payment towards that fund of an amount equal to that of the public debt.

7. To carry out my views on this subject, it would be necessary to amend all the above-recited Acts. The loan should be raised on the special security of the export tax, or if, for convenience sake, made chargeable on the public revenue, it should be provided that it should be repaid from the immigration fund.

8. The Export Tax Act is objectionable, because it levies a tax upon articles such as arrowroot, charcoal, cotton, and firewood, for the benefit of the immigration fund. I would likewise suggest that it would be more advisable that sugar should be taxed by the 100 lbs. instead of by the hogshead.

9. The appropriation from the general revenue towards the immigration fund is likewise objectionable, for the reasons which I have already stated.

His Honor the Administrator.

I have, &c.
(signed) F. Hincks.

Enclosure 5, in No. 1.

Encl. 5, in No. 1.

(No. 118.)

Sir,

Government House, St. Vincent, 9 October 1857.

I ENCLOSE a copy of the Message which I sent to the Legislature on the 6th instant, in consequence of your Excellency's Instruction, No. 176, of the 19th ultimo, on the subject of the Immigration Act.

2 I have not received the amended Bill, which has been passed in accordance with the message, but it has been officially communicated to me by both Council and Assembly that they have adopted its recommendations.

3. You will observe that all the principles laid down in your Despatch have been carried out. If there has been any departure from the exact proportions in which you suggested that the employer should be called upon to contribute to the expense of introducing the immigrant, I have only to observe that the scale which I recommended was adopted after a lengthened conference with the Executive Council, and that they considered that its equity was not likely to be impeached when it was borne in mind that whatever the proportion in which the planter individually was to pay for his labourer, you required that the remainder should be borne by him collectively.

4. I request that your Excellency will instruct me as to whether I am to assent to the Bill.

His Excellency the Governor in Chief,
Barbados.I am, &c.
(signed) J. Walker.

Sub-Enclosure.

ST. VINCENT.

Sub-Enclosure to Enclosure in No. 1.

The Administrator of the Government to the Honourable the President and Members of
Legislative Council.

THE Administrator of the Government lays before your Honourable Board a Despatch of which he was the bearer from Barbados, relative to the measure lately passed by the Legislature of St. Vincent, for the encouragement of immigration.

The spirit in which the Governor in Chief has made his suggestions for your reconsideration of this measure, will no doubt secure for them from your Honourable Board the most favourable attention.

The first objection which his Excellency has taken is to the duration of the contract, which had been extended from three to five years, as was believed to have been sanctioned in the case of the Chinese.

The limitation of the contract to a term of three years is made a *sine quâ non* to the allowance of the Act; but the provision which the Governor General leaves it to you to enact for securing the industrial residence of the immigrant for an additional two years, is such as ought to afford a tolerable guarantee for a continuance of his services.

The principles upon which the Governor General considers that the employer should contribute to the expense of introducing the immigrant are also well worthy of your attention.

The Administrator of the Government will sketch out as briefly and as plainly as possible the mode in which he would propose that you should act upon them.

He would recommend that all immigration, whether public or private, should be put on the same footing; that the party to whom the labourer is first indentured should pay to the public, at whose expense he has been brought into the Colony, a sum equal to one half of the bounty money fixed by the Governor and Council; and that if the immigrant should not, after the expiration of three years, re-indenture himself to his original employer, the latter should receive back from the immigration fund two-fifths of his original payment, the immigrant paying to the Colony the fixed sum of 2 *l.* 10 *s.* for each or either of the two years during which he may not be under contract.

Supposing, for example, that the bounty fixed for an immigrant's introduction were 50 dollars, the party to whom he is first indentured would have to pay to the public fund at once 25 dollars. If the immigrant should not re-indenture himself for another two years, his original employer would receive back 10 dollars, or five dollars, as the case may be, while there would be a payment from the immigrant or from his new employer, to the Colony of 25 dollars, or 12 dollars.

Thus every immigrant would cost the employer five dollars per annum; to the public his annual charge would also be five dollars, if he carried out an industrial residence of five years. If he worked for four years, his annual expense to the public would be four dollars and a half, and if for three years only, it would amount to somewhat less than four dollars.

The recommendation of the Governor General that the payments by the employer should be made at once in money, is one also which it will doubtless appear to you to be advisable to adopt. It will save a great deal of difficulty and embarrassment on all sides.

Nor does the Administrator of the Government anticipate any objection on the part of your Honourable Board to the Governor in Chief's suggestion, that in the case of an immigrant's re-indenture for the further period of five years, the employer should pay a contribution to the immigration fund, equal to what he paid for the first five years' service of the same immigrant.

Government House, 6 October 1857.

(signed) *Ja. Walker.*

Encl. 6, in No. 1.

(No. 119.)

Enclosure 6, in No. 1.

Government House, St. Vincent,
9 October 1857.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward a message which I sent on the 6th instant, to the Legislature on the subject of the objections which you had taken to the three Acts for raising money for immigration purposes.

2. Bills have been passed in precise accordance with the recommendations contained in the message, and will be forwarded to your Excellency as soon as they can be copied.

3. In support of the view which I expressed respecting the taxation of arrowroot as an article of export, I enclose the produce return of the Island for 1856, from which your Excellency will learn the number of estates in the several parishes on which nothing scarcely

scarcely is grown except arrowroot. The column professing to return the number of labourers on each property is worth nothing as statistical information, for the Act under which the returns are sent into the Treasury was passed during the apprenticeship system and required a statement of the number of "apprenticed" labourers on each property.

4. Union Island and Carionan export nothing but cotton; and there is no cocoa grown and exported by the labouring population.

5. Your Excellency is most probably aware that almost every estate in the Island has its own shipping place. Few proprietors have weighing beams, and it would have been therefore impossible to have enacted that the sugar should be taxed by weight. In Barbados, and in most other places where an export duty was raised, the sugar has been taxed by the truss of the hogshead.

6. I hope that your Excellency will now feel yourself at liberty to authorise me to assent to these Bills.

7. Before putting aside your present Despatch, I feel somewhat at a loss as to whether it is my duty to take any notice of two positions which you have advanced, and in which I do not concur. But as my silence respecting them might be interpreted into assent, I think there can be no harm, if, whilst avoiding any public discussion on the subject, I take this opportunity of frankly and respectfully stating to your Excellency my opinion; firstly, that the planters are not the only class who are likely to derive benefit from a wholesome immigration. The huckster and the dry goods merchant will reap as much from the immigrants' dealings as from those of the creole labourer; and secondly, that the labouring classes are just as much represented in the St. Vincent Legislature as in the Parliament of England, and that they could not have a much greater extension of the franchise here without extinguishing altogether the franchise of the upper and middle classes of the Island. But whilst giving vent to this opinion I trust that you will not consider me insensible to the exceptional condition of society which exists in these Islands, and which makes it the duty of the Government to watch over the interests of the humblest classes with even more vigilance than in other countries.

His Excellency the Governor in Chief,
Barbados.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Jas. Walker.*

Enclosure 7, in No. 1.

(No. 16.)

Encl. 7, in No. 1.

The Administrator of the Government to the Honourable the President and Members of Legislative Council (and the House of Assembly).

THE Administrator of the Government has to inform your Honourable Board, that the Governor in Chief has expressed very great regret that it has not been in his power to assent to the three money bills which were lately passed by the Legislature to provide for the expenses of immigration.

His Excellency has formed a decided opinion that those for whose benefit immigration is carried on should bear its expense; and although on former occasions in other Colonies a different principle has been sanctioned, yet, on the ground that all legislation on this subject has been hitherto in a great measure experimental, his Excellency is convinced that the principle which he has enunciated is the one that ought to be adopted.

His Excellency, however, bearing in mind the liberality manifested by the Legislature in the provision made for the public debt last year (which would have formed a legitimate charge on the general revenue) has no objection that the immigration fund should receive from the revenue an amount not greater than the debt, provided that a tax is laid on the principal articles of exported produce in support of the fund.

To carry out the views of his Excellency, your Honourable Board will perceive that the three Acts referred to will require to be amended to a certain extent.

The alteration which would be necessary in the "Immigration Fund Act," has already been adverted to, and with regard to the "Amended Export Tax Act," his Excellency expresses an objection to a tax being laid upon arrowroot, cocoa, cotton, charcoal, and firewood. This is evidently on the assumption that these articles are only produced by small growers, who being the cultivators of the soil themselves do not require immigration. But in this Colony many of these products are raised in large quantities, and by a class to whom immigration would prove a valuable boon, and the administrator of the Government would suggest to your Honourable Board that the Bill should be amended by omitting charcoal and firewood. The measure by adopting this course will be rendered more perfect, as it would be completely assimilated with the original measure which was passed by your Honourable Board during the past Session.

The Administrator of the Government, in conclusion, desires to express his confidence that your Honourable Board will give to these measures your most earnest attention, and feels assured that you will have due regard to the objections of his Excellency the Governor in Chief, and to the importance of the subject brought under your notice.

Government House, 6 October 1857.

(signed) *Jas. Walker.*

Enclosure 8, in No. 1.

ST. VINCENT.

ACCOUNT of PRODUCE Manufactured on the several ESTATES in this COLONY, during the Crop of 1856.

	SUGAR.			Punchons of Rum.	Punchons of Melasses.	Pounds of Sugar.	Gallons of Rum.	Gallons of Melasses.	Pounds of Arrowroot.	Pounds of Cocoa.	Pounds of Cotton.	Number of Labourers.
	Hhds.	Tns.	Bls.									
CHARLOTTE PARISH :												
Adelphi, Upper	-	-	-	13	-	-	1,284	-	-	-	-	-
Adelphi, New	83	-	-	18 ½	-	124,168	1,692	-	-	-	-	100
Bellevue	116	10	33	40	-	173,251	3,841	-	-	-	-	100
Colonarie Vale	102	1	-	50	-	185,360	4,500	-	-	-	-	120
Grand Sable	434	-	-	175	-	819,830	16,008	-	-	-	-	280
Iambou Vale	44	-	-	10	5	73,960	960	500	-	-	-	25
Mount Bentinck	250	-	-	115	-	462,500	10,810	-	-	-	-	187
Mount William	150	-	-	60	-	236,544	5,700	-	-	-	-	-
Mount Greenan	71	-	-	10	-	181,440	2,289	-	-	-	-	98
Orange Hill	140	-	-	43	-	253,800	3,936	-	-	-	-	85
Park Hill	133	-	-	37	-	217,504	3,441	-	-	-	-	-
Langley Park	64	-	-	27	-	107,520	2,700	-	-	-	-	-
Prospect, New	98	-	-	26	27	147,000	2,406	2,700	-	-	-	80
Sans Souci	205	10	10	72 ½	-	356,160	7,250	-	-	-	-	-
Spring	75	-	-	18	-	112,500	1,728	-	-	-	-	90
Tourama	266	-	-	126	-	446,880	12,600	-	-	-	-	-
Union	277 ½	6	-	45	140	420,000	4,514	14,000	-	-	-	-
Waterloo	290	-	-	100	-	543,170	10,000	-	-	-	-	186
Hopewell	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,500	12	-	-
Mesopotamia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31,450	-	-	-
Richland Park	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24,055	-	-	20
Nutmeg Grove	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	41,437	-	-	-
Glenside	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34,088	-	-	-
Careire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,770	-	-	-
Cliff Cottage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14,748	-	-	-
Fancy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40,680	-	-	46
Owia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50,635	-	-	-
Small cultivators	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,005	-	-	-
TOTAL - -	2,798 ½	27	43	986	172	4,801,547	96,349	17,200	262,298	12	-	1,427
ST. GEORGE'S PARISH :												
Argyle	149	-	-	52	-	300,000	5,200	-	-	-	-	-
Bellair	82	-	4	14	24	139,293	1,260	2,520	-	-	-	-
Belvidere	119	1	-	59	-	221,043	5,000	-	-	-	-	-
Brighton	11	3	1	-	5	18,500	-	500	-	-	-	-
Caruth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21,375	-	-	-
Calder and Calder Ridge	189	-	2	47	-	321,300	4,006	-	-	-	-	-
Cane Hall	90	-	7	33	-	143,721	3,269	-	-	-	-	80
Carrapan	88	-	-	40	-	159,159	5,260	-	-	-	-	-
Diamond, Lower	54	-	-	26	-	95,000	3,170	-	-	-	-	-
				& 2 hhds.								
Escape	28	-	-	13	-	47,040	1,300	-	-	-	-	-
Fair Hall	58	-	-	16	-	111,440	2,030	-	-	-	-	-
Fountain	133	-	2	28	52	233,843	2,800	5,000	-	-	-	70
Liberty Lodge	74	6	-	14 ½	9	101,640	1,334	872	-	-	-	40
Mariaqua	72	4	3	-	30	112,600	-	3,000	-	-	-	-
Mount Pleasant	125	-	1	3	97 ½	199,100	300	9,750	-	-	-	-
Ratho Mill	57	-	-	17 ½	14	102,330	1,513	1,344	-	-	-	18
Richmond Hill	72	-	2	24 ½	-	122,000	2,173	-	-	-	-	-
Rivulet	64	-	-	48	-	118,272	5,608	-	-	-	-	8
Redemption	54	-	-	5	13	85,536	450	1,287	-	-	-	50
Glen	-	-	5	1	-	900	90	70	-	-	-	-
Sion Hill	-	96	-	17	-	102,400	1,720	-	-	-	-	-
Villa	64	56	9	-	65	174,720	-	5,466	-	-	-	25
Kingstown Park	74	-	2	11 ½	17	111,336	950	1,379	-	-	-	45
Whim	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22,300	-	-	-
Kilburnie Lodge	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,360	400	-	5
Orange Grove	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,450	-	-	10
Joseph's Land and Ribishie	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42,860	-	-	-
Dauphine	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21,750	-	-	-
Rose Cottage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,120	-	-	-
Southwood	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32,274	-	-	-
TOTAL - -	1,657	166	38	478 ½ & 2 hhds.	326 ½	3,021,168	48,951	31,188	162,489	400	-	351
ST. ANDREW'S PARISH :												
Camden Park	126	-	-	4 h. 31	28	201,600	3,300	2,800	-	-	-	-
Cane Grove	200	-	-	54	37	336,000	5,184	2,960	-	-	-	-
Hope	86	1	-	9 ½	32	119,652	811	2,880	-	-	-	-
Montrose	108	-	-	24 h. 27	-	183,600	3,900	-	-	-	-	-
Lance Joyeaux	26	1	-	-	-	38,688	-	800	-	-	-	-
Pembroke	151	1	-	8	92	233,236	981	8,832	-	-	-	-
Penniston's	70	-	-	14	-	117,600	1,344	-	-	-	-	-
Queensbury	20	-	20	1 ½	-	31,672	-	-	-	-	-	70
Vermont	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,540	-	-	9
TOTAL - -	787	3	20	28 h. 145	189	1,262,048	15,520	18,272	8,540	-	-	79

	SUGAR.			Puncheons of Rum.	Puncheons of Melasses.	Pounds of Sugar.	Gallons of Rum.	Gallons of Melasses.	Pounds of Arrowroot.	Pounds of Cocoa.	Pounds of Cotton.	Number of Labourers.
	Hhds.	Tns.	Bls.									
ST. PATRICK'S PARISH:												
Belleisle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,765	-	-	-
Cumberland	73	-	-	20	-	130,086	1,900	-	-	-	-	-
Kearnton's	13	-	9	6½	-	22,960	604	-	-	-	-	-
Lance Mahaut	-	-	15	-	-	3,750	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mount Wynne	63	-	8½	28	-	131,506	2,764	-	22,000	-	-	-
Peter's Hope	116	-	-	26½	20	152,007	2,298	1,600	-	-	-	-
Reversion	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24,860	-	-	-
Rutland Vale	197	-	23	58	-	342,884	5,720	-	-	-	-	153
Wallilabou	75	2	½	24	6	131,183	2,500	634	-	-	-	-
Layou Hill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,488	-	-	-
Palmiste Park	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12,200	-	-	11
Jack Vincent (Cumberland)	-	-	-	-	-	600	-	-	2,000	-	-	-
Peter Kirby ditto	-	-	-	-	-	200	-	-	1,400	-	-	-
John Bristol (Lance Mahaut)	-	-	-	-	-	400	-	-	800	-	-	-
Bright Williams	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14,000	116	-	-
Small Cultivators	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	139,633	-	-	-
TOTAL	537	2	50	163½	26	915,576	15,786	2,234	226,140	116	-	164
ST. DAVID'S PARISH:												
Belmont	43	-	-	1½	-	68,800	140	-	-	-	-	-
Rose Hall	45	-	-	1½	-	72,000	135	-	-	-	-	-
Petit Bordell and Sharpe	77	1	-	11	26	116,500	990	2,340	-	-	-	-
Richmond Vale	138	-	-	4	71	207,000	381	6,390	-	-	-	90
Tronmaca	35	-	-	-	-	54,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Palmyra	-	86	-	-	-	94,600	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wallibou	53	78	-	15	-	106,526	1,650	-	-	-	-	25
Richmond	181	-	-	5	79	337,568	500	7,110	-	-	-	-
Small Cultivators	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	54,120	-	-	-
TOTAL	572	165	-	38	176	1,056,904	3,796	15,840	54,120	-	-	115
GREENADINES:												
Industry, Requia	32	-	-	12½	9	49,600	1,455	970	-	-	-	40
Paget Farm	-	-	153	2½	8	33,521	253	840	996	-	1,726	24
Spring	47	-	-	21½	6	75,200	2,514	672	-	-	-	45
Union	-	33	-	23 hhds.	7	39,072	1,400	793	-	-	-	49
Grand Bay, Mustique	-	1	65	-	5	13,409	-	500	-	-	-	-
Canouan Island	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	48	-	19,042	-
Union	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,591	-
Cinnamon Garden	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,000	-	-	-
Friendship	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,610	-	-	-
Reform	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,470	-	-	-
Lower Bay	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	500	-	-	-
Isle A'Quatre	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,300	-	-	-
TOTAL	79	34	218	23 h. 36½	35	210,793	5,622	3,784	14,924	-	27,359	151

RECAPITULATION.

TOTAL of all PARISHES.	SUGAR.			Puncheons of Rum.	Puncheons of Melasses.	Pounds of Sugar.	Gallons of Rum.	Gallons of Melasses.	Pounds of Arrowroot.	Pounds of Cocoa.	Pounds of Cotton.	Labourers.
	Hhds.	Tns.	Bls.									
Charlotte parish	2,798½	27	43	960	172	4,861,547	96,349	17,200	262,298	12	-	1,427
St. George's parish	1,657	106	38	{ 478½ 2 hhds. }	326½	3,021,168	48,951	31,188	162,489	400	-	351
St. Andrew's parish	787	3	20	{ 145 28 hhds. }	189	1,262,048	15,520	18,272	6,540	-	-	79
St. David's parish	572	165	-	38	176	1,056,904	3,796	15,840	54,120	-	-	115
St. Patrick's parish	537	2	56	163½	26	915,576	15,786	2,234	226,146	116	-	164
The Grenadines	79	34	218	{ 36½ 23 hhds. }	35	210,793	5,622	3,784	14,924	-	27,359	151
TOTAL	6,430½	397	975	53 h. 1,847½	924½	11,328,126	186,024	88,518	728,517	528	27,359	2,287

E. E.

Treasury, St. Vincent.

J. M. Grant, Treasurer.

ST. VINCENT.

(No. 127.)

Government House, St. Vincent,
24 October 1857.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency, in duplicate, authenticated copies of,—

1. "An Act to alter the Law of Contracts with regard to Immigrants, and for the encouragement of Immigration, and for the general Regulation of Immigrants."

2. "An Act for laying an additional Tax on produce to provide a Fund for Immigration purposes."

3. "An Act to appropriate a portion of the General Revenue for Immigration Purposes."

And, 4. An "Act to authorise the raising of Loans of Money for Immigration Purposes, and to secure and provide for the repayment of such Loans."

These Acts are all accompanied by the Attorney General's report on them in duplicate.

It does not occur to me to add anything on the subject of these Acts to what I have stated in my Despatches Nos. 118 and 119 of the 9th instant.

His Excellency the Governor in Chief,
Barbados.I have, &c.
(signed) J. Walker.

(No. 183.)

Windward Islands, Barbados,
28 October 1857.

Sir,

I DELAYED replying officially to your Despatch of the 9th instant, (No. 118, Legislative,) until I should be in possession of a copy of the Act therein referred to, and which I received yesterday, duly authenticated.

2. Having already made you aware of the views which I entertain on the immigration question, you will not be surprised to learn, that I attach much greater importance than the Executive Council of St. Vincent appear to do, to the considerable diminution in the amount of the contribution to the Immigration Fund by the employers of labour, which is sanctioned by this Act.

3. The principle being recognised that the planters collectively should bear the expense of immigration, it appears to me that both sound policy and equity dictate that the greater portion of it should fall on the individuals who receive the direct benefit of the labour.

4. As, however I purpose transmitting the Immigration Act without delay to the Secretary of State, it seems unnecessary to discuss it further. I shall simply contrast the provisions of the St. Vincent Act with those of the Colonies with whose legislation on the subject I am most familiar.

5. In British Guiana, the established bounty is \$ 50 (50 dollars), and that is considered a fair estimate for the passage money of the Indian immigrants, though it is, I should think, rather below the average rate. The employer pays the full amount on entering into contract, but two fifths are returnable in case the labourer should not be reindentured at the expiration of three years. Thus the employer pays 10 dollars per annum. In your message you estimate the bounty at 50 dollars, and you propose that the employer should pay five dollars per annum, or precisely one half what is paid in Guiana. In Grenada the employer pays half the bounty for a three years' contract, so that, assuming it to be 50 dollars, he pays 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ dollars per annum. The objection which I took to the Guiana Ordinance and the Grenada Act, and which is referred to in the last paragraph of your Message, was founded on the inadequacy of the contribution by the employer of 1 l. 9 s. 2 d. sterling per annum to the Immigration Fund. Under the St. Vincent Act the employer will pay even a smaller contribution towards the expense of the back passage.

6. I have considered it due to myself to place on record the objections which I entertain to the St. Vincent Immigration Act as finally passed, and having done so, I shall leave it to the Secretary of State to determine as to the degree of weight to be attached to them.

His Honor the Administrator,
&c. &c. &c.I have, &c.
(signed) F. Hincks.

(No. 184.)

Windward Islands, Barbados,
29 October 1857.

Sir,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 9th instant, transmitting copy of your Message to the Legislature of St. Vincent on the subject of my objections to the Acts for raising money for immigration purposes, and your subsequent Despatch of the
27th

27th instant, enclosing authenticated copies of the several amended Acts passed by the Council and Assembly, and assented to by you, which I shall lose no time in transmitting to the Secretary of State.

ST. VINCENT.

2. I retain the opinion which I have already communicated to you, that arrowroot ought not to be subjected to an export tax for immigration purposes. I believe that the produce of the tax will be inconsiderable, and that it will, in all probability, cause irritation among the small cultivators, which it would be sound policy to avert. Cotton is only produced in the adjacent islands, and, on principle, I object to its being taxed. About six dollars per annum will be raised from the cultivators in Canowan and Union Island, who will not, I imagine, derive any benefit from immigration. Cocoa appears to be cultivated to a very limited extent in St. Vincent. The tax on this article will not amount to 30s. annually, taking the return in the Blue Book to be correct, which gives 118 cwt., whereas the statement in your Despatch only gives 528 lbs., the duty on which would be one-third.

3. I fully appreciate the spirit in which you have offered the remarks contained in the 7th paragraph of your Despatch, to which I shall briefly reply. I am willing to admit that shopkeepers and tradesmen, and perhaps other classes, will derive a benefit from the dealings of immigrants; but these are incidental advantages, for which I do not think that they should be taxed. I have not alleged that the labouring classes in St. Vincent are less represented in Parliament than the same classes in England, and I have expressed no opinion whatever as to an extension of the elective franchise in that Colony. I am therefore able to subscribe unreservedly to your own opinion, that "the exceptional condition of society which exists in these islands makes it the duty of the Government to watch over the interests of the humblest classes with even more vigilance than in other countries." Acting on that rule, I have felt it my duty to place on record my opinion that the proprietary body should not be permitted to impose taxes on the labouring classes to pay for the introduction of immigrant labour to compete with their own.

His Honor the Administrator,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *F. Hincks.*

— No. 2. —

(No. 3.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Hincks* to the Right Honourable
H. Labouchere, M. P.

Windward Islands, Barbados,
4 January 1858.

(Received, 6 February 1858.)

Sir,

(Answered, No. 1, 27 February 1858, page 140.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the copy of a Despatch from Mr. Walker, enclosing a copy of resolutions passed by the Council and Assembly of St. Vincent on the subject of immigration, and reporting the appointment of Mr. James H. Brown as an Agent for the purpose set forth in the resolutions.

I have, &c.
(signed) *F. Hincks.*

No. 2.
Governor Hincks
to the Right Hon.
H. Labouchere,
M. P.
4 January 1858.

No. 149, Ex.
19 December 1857.
Enclosure.

Enclosure in No. 2.

Sir,

St. Vincent, Government House,
19 December 1857.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency copies of several resolutions which were passed by the Council and Assembly on the 15th instant, and I have the honour to acquaint you, that, by the advice of the Executive Council, I have appointed Mr. James H. Brown to be the Agent to proceed to Madeira, the Canaries, and the Cape de Verde Islands, for the purpose set forth in the resolutions.

His Excellency the Governor in Chief,
Barbados.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Jas. Walker.*

Sub-Enclosure.

ST. VINCENT.

Sub-Enclosure in Enclosure No. 2.

Resolved, THAT the present paucity of labour in the island is likely to endanger the successful reaping of the coming crop.

That before making any application to Her Majesty's Government for immigrants from the East Indies, it is desirable to ascertain what amount of labour is available in the islands adjacent to the coast of Africa.

That for this purpose an agent, to be appointed by the Administrator of the Government, be sent to Madeira, the Canaries, and the Cape de Verdes, and that the sum of 150*l.* be granted out of the Immigration Fund to defray the expenses of such Agent.

That exclusive of the said sum of 150*l.*, the Agent shall receive as remuneration for his labour and trouble for each labourer engaged by him under contract, and landed in this island, 10*s.* for each effective labourer of the age of 14 years and upwards, and 5*s.* for each labourer from six years to 14 years, the same to be paid out of the Immigration Fund.

That a message be sent to Council requesting the concurrence of the Board in the foregoing resolutions, and that it will join in an application to his Excellency the Administrator of the Government for payment to the Agent of the aforesaid sum of 150*l.*

— No. 3. —

(No. 22.)

No. 3.
Governor Hincks
to the Right Hon.
Lord Stanley, M.P.
7 May 1858.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Hincks* to the Right Honourable the Lord *Stanley*, M.P.

Windward Islands, Barbados,
7 May 1858.
(Received, 31 May 1858.)

My Lord,

(Answered, No. 2, 29 June 1858, p. 146.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the copy of a Despatch from Lieutenant-Governor Eyre, reporting the views entertained in the Colony of St. Vincent regarding Mr. Secretary Labouchere's Despatch of the 25th* February, on the subject of emigration of captured Africans to the West Indies.

2. There can be no doubt that the sugar planters in St. Vincent, as in all the West Indian Colonies, with perhaps the single exception of Barbados, are most anxious to obtain a supply of labourers from other countries.

3. The only point in Mr. Eyre's Despatch on which I deem it necessary to offer any remark, is the proposed rate of wages. In Barbados the established rates are from 10*d.* to 1*s.* per day, which prevail concurrently with an abundant supply of labourers and very high prices of land, viz., from 75*l.* to 100*l.* per acre for plantations, including the buildings.

4. The proposed rate in St. Vincent is 8*d.* a day, with house and provision grounds, and 10*d.* to 1*s.* without; but Mr. Eyre states, that he has been informed by certain leading planters, that if the immigrants would work on Saturdays, as well as on the other five days, they would be willing to pay them 1*s.* per day, in addition to gratuitous medical attendance, house, and provision grounds.

5. I must record my opinion that this proposition affords additional evidence of the mistaken policy too generally pursued by the planters in these Colonies. I have on other occasions pointed out the inexpediency of mixing up the questions of rent and wages, and shall not trouble your Lordship with any further remarks on that head.

6. The estimated value of a house and ground in St. Vincent appears to be 2*d.* to 4*d.* per day, as labourers not living on the estate receive 10*d.* to 1*s.*, while those in the enjoyment of a house and ground receive 8*d.* Mr. Eyre states, that "a considerable number of influential proprietors and employers of labour" are willing to pay 1*s.* a day, in addition to house and provision grounds and medical attendance to the immigrants, provided they agree to work on Saturdays.

7. I do

Enclosure.
15 April 1858.

* Page 140.

ST. VINCENT.

7. I do not think that such a condition should be imposed; but the offer proves conclusively that the St. Vincent planters can afford to pay 1 s. 2 d. to 1 s. 4 d. per day for labour, and my belief is that if they fixed their wages at those rates, they would obtain a considerable supply of labourers on the spot, as well as from Barbados.

8. It is a remarkable fact that a considerable emigration is constantly taking place from Colonies, which are importing immigrants at great expense to the public, to other Colonies in their neighbourhood. The obvious cause is the difference in the rates of wages. There is as great a demand for labourers in Grenada as in St. Vincent, and yet a stream of emigration is constantly flowing from the former Island to Trinidad.

9. I cannot be surprised at the efforts made by the planters to keep down the rates of wages; but I am persuaded that unless they raise them to 1 s. 4 d. or 1 s. 6 d. a day in those Colonies where land is abundant and cheap, they will be unable to obtain an adequate supply of labour.

I have, &c.
(signed) F. Hincks.

Enclosure in No. 3.

Encl. in No. 3.

(No. 25.)

Government House, St. Vincent,
15 April 1858.

Sir,

I HAVE laid before the Legislature of this Colony the Secretary of State's Despatch marked St. Vincent, No. 128, of the 25th February 1858, communicating the steps he had taken to promote the emigration of captured Africans and of bounty emigrants from Sierra Leone to the West Indies.

2. I transmit extracts of communications which I have received from the respective branches of the Legislature in reference to this subject. The remainder of such communications refer to the possible transportation of mutineers or insurgents from India to such Colonies as might be willing to receive them, and will be sent in a separate Despatch, as I have thought it desirable to keep the two questions entirely distinct.

Sub-Enclosure.

3. As regards the introduction of liberated Africans, or of bounty emigrants, from Africa, both the Council and Assembly are unanimous in desiring that as large a number as possible should at once be introduced into St. Vincent, expressing their readiness to agree to adopt the 16th clause of the agreement entered into by the Emigration Commissioners for the passage of Africans, and generally to agree to any other conditions which Her Majesty's Government may think it right to impose. They state further, that funds are already provided for meeting the necessary expenditure, and that a recent Act has amply provided from the time of their arrival for the careful attendance to any immigrants who might be introduced into the Colony, and for the supply to them of adequate food, sufficient medical attendance, and prompt and remunerative employment. In all these particulars I am able fully to substantiate the statement of the legislative bodies.

4. With regard to the rate of wages to be held out to the intending emigrants, the Legislature appears to have thought it preferable that I should state the existing current wages than that it should itself go into the question. The present ordinary pay in St. Vincent of an able-bodied labourer, not provided with cottage or provision ground, varies from 10 d. to 1 s. per day for a day's work nominally of nine hours. But practically almost all work is done by taskwork, under which the labourer is enabled to execute in five or six hours that which if working by time would occupy the whole nine hours. As soon as the task is done, the labourer can either proceed to earn a further sum by doing a second task, or part of one, or he can employ himself in cultivating his own provision ground, or in any other way he may think fit.

Labourers who are provided with a cottage and provision ground on the estates where they work, receive about 8 d. per day, instead of 10 d. to 1 s.

In both cases women and children are paid proportionably to the able-bodied labourer according to their powers of working. In both cases also the labourer rarely works more than five days in the week, Saturday being usually taken for his own purposes, and of course not paid for by the master.

5. Since the Secretary of State's Despatch of the 25th February 1858 has become generally known, a considerable number of influential proprietors and employers of labourers have authorised me to state, that if the intending emigrants from Africa are willing to work (or do a task) on Saturdays, as well as on the other five week-days, they are willing to undertake to give them 1 s. a day for wages, and, in addition, to provide gratuitously medical attendance, house, and provision ground, it being understood that by a day's work

ST. VINCENT. is meant either nine hours' work, or its equivalent in taskwork, according to the rates of taskwork at present adopted in the country, and under which, as I have already remarked, an able-bodied man may complete his day's work in five or six hours, according to his skill and industry.

If the immigrants do not like to undertake to work on a Saturday, they would receive the same scale of pay as at present given in the Colony, namely, from 10 *d.* to 1 *s.* per day, without house or provision ground, or 8 *d.* per day with house and provision ground, to which medical attendance would be added.

6. In conclusion, I would beg to point out as strongly as I can the great want of labour in St. Vincent, where so many fine estates and large tracts of available country are still lying waste, from the insufficiency of the labour in the Colony to cultivate them.

I would call attention to the strenuous efforts which have been made by the planters during the last three years in every way to make the most of the labour they have—efforts which have resulted in fully doubling the exports of the Colony within that short period.

And I would state my conviction that, large as this increase of production is, it might again be easily doubled during the next three years if a sufficient supply of additional labour could only be provided. Under these circumstances, I would respectfully solicit Her Majesty's Government to urge upon the Emigration Commissioners the peculiarly great advantages offered by St. Vincent to either liberated Africans or bounty emigrants.

It is one of the very healthiest of our tropical possessions, can spare abundance of land for provision grounds for the labourers, offers the highest rate of wages, with concurrent advantages, and has made ample provision for carefully receiving and satisfactorily providing for any number of labourers who may arrive.

His Excellency
the Governor in Chief.

I have, &c.
(signed) *E. Eyre.*

Sub-Enclosure to Enclosure in No. 3.

EXTRACT from his Honor the President of the Board of Legislative Council's Letter to his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, dated Council Chamber, St. Vincent, 8 April 1858.

1. I HAVE been requested by the members of the Board of Legislative Council to acknowledge your Excellency's joint Message, No. 6, dated 7th April instant, covering two several Despatches from the Secretary of State, dated respectively the 17th and 25th February last.

2. In replying to the one dated the 25th February, relative to promoting the immigration of captured Africans and others from Africa to the West Indies, the Board think that it would be most desirable that the Colony should obtain from the Government as many liberated Africans or other emigrants from Africa as can be procured, and will agree to adopt the 16th clause of the agreement entered into by the Emigration Commissioners for the passage of Africans to this Government, the means for which have already been provided, and to submit to any other conditions which Her Majesty's Government may think it right or necessary to impose.

3. The Board is of opinion that the Immigration Act passed in the last Session of the Legislature amply provides for the careful attendance to such immigrants, and the supply to them of adequate food, sufficient medical care, and prompt remunerative employment from the time of their arrival.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. E. Sharpe,*
President of Council.

EXTRACT from his Honor the Speaker of Assembly's Letter to his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, dated Committee Rooms, Court House, 8 April 1858.

I HAVE been instructed by the Honourable House of Assembly to acknowledge your Excellency's joint Message, No. 6, dated 7th April 1858, covering two several Despatches from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated respectively the 17th and 25th of February last.

In

In replying to the one dated 25th February relative to promoting the emigration of captured and other Africans to the West Indies, the House thinks that it would be most desirable that the Colony should obtain from the Government as many liberated Africans or other emigrants from Africa as can be procured, and will readily agree to adopt the sixteenth clause of the agreement, entered into by the Emigration Commissioners, for the passage of Africans to this Colony (the means for which have already been provided by the Legislature), and to any other conditions which Her Majesty's Government may think it right to impose. The House is also of opinion that the Immigration Act, passed in the last session of the Legislature, amply provides (from the time of their arrival) for the careful attendance to such immigrants, and the supply to them of adequate food, sufficient medical attendance, and prompt remunerative employment.

I have, &c.
(signed) *G. M. Browne*,
Speaker.

ST. VINCENT.

— No. 4. —

(No. 31.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Hincks* to the Right Honourable the Lord *Stanley*, M.P.

Barbados, 14 June 1858.
(Received, 19 July 1858.)

No. 4.
Governor *Hincks*
to the Right Hon.
Lord *Stanley*, M.P.
14 June 1858.

My Lord,

(Answered, No. 6, 31 July 1858, p. 147.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the copy of a Despatch from the Lieutenant Governor of St. Vincent, the object of which is to ascertain whether Her Majesty's Government would be prepared to apply to Parliament to guarantee a loan for that Colony not exceeding 20,000 £., for immigration purposes.

No. 37.
10 June 1858.
Enclosure.

2. Having no reason to think it probable that your Lordship will be prepared to recommend such a measure, I forbear entering into questions of detail. I may, however, observe, that if Her Majesty's Government were prepared to assume the responsibility of making any further proposition to Parliament with a view of promoting immigration, it would be desirable that it should embrace those Colonies which have not participated in former loans for this object, and which now desire to obtain them.

I have, &c.
(signed) *F. Hincks*.

Enclosure in No. 4.

(No. 37.)

Encl. in No. 4.

Sir,

Government House, St. Vincent, 10 June 1858.

I HAVE the honour to enclose to your Excellency, for transmission to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, an extract from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Executive Council of this Colony, at a meeting held on the 29th ultimo.

2. The resolution adopted at this meeting expresses the opinion of the Executive Council that provision should be made to obtain immigrants from China, and requests the Lieutenant Governor to communicate with the Secretary of State, to ascertain whether Her Majesty's Government would guarantee a loan, not exceeding 20,000 £., to be applied to this purpose, upon the Colony, making all necessary provision for regular payment of the interest, and a gradual repayment of the principal.

3. In a communication which I addressed to the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, under date of the 18th of May 1857, I brought under review the generally satisfactory state of the St. Vincent finances, even though a very short time had then elapsed since their recovery from a long-continued state of bankruptcy. I pointed out that this restoration of solvency and credit had taken place under so low a scale of taxation, that a considerable less revenue was being raised than the average of many years previously, and I expressed my opinion that St. Vincent might then with advantage make a further effort, and raise an additional sum of above 1,000 £. per annum for the purposes of immigration.

This effort has been made; the ordinary revenue has also improved, and a fund is now being rapidly accumulated for the specific purpose of introducing additional labour into the Colony.

ST. VINCENT.

4. At the present moment, there is in hand a sum of 1,315 £. set apart for immigration, and during the ensuing half-year a further amount of about 1,320 £. will become applicable to the same fund. In 1859 and 1860 similar amounts will become available, besides the further sum, in 1859, of about 1,800 £., the probable balance of the Income and Export Tax Acts, which are now restricted to a particular purpose, but will be released early next year for the objects of immigration. Altogether, by the close of 1860, a sum of fully 10,000 £. will have become available for the purposes of immigration, as is shown by a statement which I enclose from the Colonial Treasurer.

5. This statement also shows that, irrespective of the immigration arrangements, the St. Vincent treasury, at the close of the month just terminated, would, after paying all claims of every description, have a clear net balance of above 1,000 £., besides the 1,315 £. of immigration fund, whilst the ordinary current revenue is fully equal to the ordinary current expenditure.

6. The Colony is therefore not only solvent, with a considerable clear balance in hand, and not only fully meeting its current expenditure out of its current income, but it has also made adequate provision for raising the sum of about 10,000 £. for immigration purposes, between the 1st January 1858 and the 31st December 1860.

All too is being accomplished by existing taxation, and this taxation is of the most moderate and inoppressive character.

7. I have gone thus at length into a statement of our financial position, because I wish the Secretary of State, in considering the question of guaranteeing a loan, which is raised by the resolution of the Executive Council, enclosed, to have before him the fullest information, and to be able to feel quite satisfied that St. Vincent is now in a position easily and fully to meet any engagements which she may make in obtaining such a loan.

8. In my communication to Mr. Ball, of the 18th May 1857, already referred to, I particularly called attention to the fact that, however flourishing the resources of the Colony might be, a small sum, coming in only at yearly intervals, would manifestly be insufficient to admit of any arrangements being made for the immediate introduction of immigrants; and I ventured to suggest that if a deviation could be made from the rule generally laid down, and a loan be guaranteed by Her Majesty's Government, a great boon would be accorded to the colony, which would be relieved from the almost overwhelming cost (through high rate of interest and other concurrent expenses) of obtaining the funds required through a bank, or any other private source, whilst Great Britain itself would be benefited by an increased supply from one of its own possessions of productions of general consumption, and of which it is highly important that the mother country should foster and extend the cultivation as much as possible.

9. The resolution of the Executive Council only comprehends a preliminary inquiry. Legislative action would be necessary before any actual steps could be taken; but as the Executive Council consists of the most influential members of both branches of the Legislature, there is no doubt whatever but that any necessary legislation would be most willingly and promptly carried out.

10. I believe the Colony to be now in a position easily to pay a fair interest upon any sum not exceeding 20,000 £., to pay off annually (in half-yearly instalments) a portion of the principal of not less than 2,000 £., and still to provide fully for all its ordinary current expenditure, without any additional taxation whatever beyond what is now being collected under existing Acts.

11. Should Her Majesty's Government feel disposed to grant the loan now sought, I am quite certain the Legislature would at once make all the existing Tax Acts permanent for 10 years; would make the interest of the loan, and the annual repayment of 2,000 £. of principal, as first charges upon the revenue, and would generally carry out such other conditions as Her Majesty's Government might require.

12. The object being to secure the importation of Chinese labourers with their families, the money lent would remain with the Crown authorities until paid over to the parties entitled to receive it from time to time, for procuring or conveying immigrants to St. Vincent, and Crown agents would be employed exclusively in these services.

The whole of the money, therefore, would not be required at once, and all would be repaid, with interest, in 10 years.

13. I may state that during my temporary absence from the Colony last year, upon leave of absence, some efforts were made to obtain immigrants to St. Vincent from Madeira, the Canary Islands, and the Cape de Verdes, and an Agent was sent from this Colony to those islands to ascertain the practicability of doing so.

These efforts have been quite without success. The Colony has not, up to the present time, obtained a single immigrant, nor does there appear the least prospect of obtaining any; at the same time the deficiency of labour is very great, and the amount in the Colony not always to be calculated upon.

14. I would

14. I would therefore strongly support the resolution of the Executive Council, and solicit that, if possible, Her Majesty's Government should deviate from the ordinary rule laid down, and grant a loan to St. Vincent, upon such legislation being adopted as may be thought necessary to secure the proper appropriation of the money, and the certain and regular payment of interest, and gradual repayment of principal.

ST. VINCENT.

His Excellency the Governor in Chief,
Barbados.

I have, &c.
(signed) *E. Eyre.*

Sub-Enclosure.

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Executive Council, held at the Government Office, Kingstown, Saturday, the 29th day of May 1858.

Present:—His Excellency Edward John Eyre, Lieutenant Governor; the Hon. Charles Douglas Stewart, the Hon. John James Hughes, the Hon. John Audain, the Hon. George M. Browne, the Hon. James Graham, the Hon. James M. Grant, the Hon. William Ross.

THE following Resolution was unanimously adopted on the subject of immigration from China:—

"The Council are of opinion that provision should be made to obtain immigrants from China, and they recommend that the necessary steps should be taken, without delay, for that purpose, and that his Excellency should communicate with the Secretary of State to ascertain whether Her Majesty's Government would guarantee a loan, not exceeding 20,000 £, for that purpose, and on what terms; conditional that the Legislature would make the necessary provision for the repayment of principal and interest."

(A true copy.)

(signed) *Bouverie Alleyne,*
Clerk of Council.

— No. 5. —

(No. 34.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Hincks* to the Right Honourable the Lord *Stanley*, M. P.

Windward Islands, Barbados, 14 June 1858.

(Received, 19 July 1858.)

My Lord,

(Answered, No. 11, 12 August 1858, p. 147.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the copy of a Despatch from the Lieutenant Governor of St. Vincent, enclosing authenticated copies of two Proclamations fixing the rates of bounty to be paid on the introduction of immigrants into that Colony; the second, which has been only recently issued by Mr. Eyre, being to amend and explain that formerly issued by Mr. Walker. These Proclamations were called for by your Lordship's Despatch of the 30th April last.

I have, &c.
(signed) *F. Hincks.*

No. 5.
Governor *Hincks*
to the Right Hon.
Lord *Stanley*, M. P.
14 June 1858.

No. 40.
10 June 1858.
Enclosure.

Enclosure 1, in No. 5.

Encl. 1, in No. 5.

(No. 40.)

Sir,

Government House, St. Vincent, 10 June 1858.

I HAVE the honour to transmit authenticated copies of a Proclamation which I have issued, under the advice of my Executive Council, fixing the scale of bounty to be paid for immigrants arriving in St. Vincent from certain places named in the Proclamation.

2. Your Excellency will notice that the present Proclamation is chiefly for the purpose of explaining and defining a Proclamation issued by Mr. Walker, on the 3d November 1857, and under which the full bounty payable for adult immigrants might also be claimed for infants and very young children, which was never intended. The present Proclamation divides immigrants into three classes, according to age, and fixes a scale of bounty for each class.

3. It also limits the bounty to such immigrants as belong to families the members of whom, being between the ages of 15 and 40, shall, either before or on arrival in the Colony, enter into agreement to perform agricultural labour.

In Mr. Walker's Proclamation there was no limitation of this kind, as the third clause of the Immigration Act (to which reference is made) appears to be very loosely and faultily drawn; and under it many immigrants might have been paid for by the Colony, who, if they chose, could at once leave it for another place.

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4. With regard to the age mentioned for entering into contracts to perform agricultural service (between 15 and 40), the Proclamation follows the Act. It may be as well, however, to mention that the Act at the same time expressly provides that children under 15 shall not be separated from their parents; and the Governor would also have the power of insisting upon this rule being observed even with regard to parties above 15, when necessary, as in the case of girls.

5. I enclose copies of Mr. Walker's Proclamation of the 3d November, as it is referred to in mine of the 2d June.

His Excellency the Governor in Chief,
Barbados.

I have, &c.
(signed) E. Eyre.

Encl. 2, in No. 5.

Enclosure 2, in No. 5.

By *James Walker*, Esq., the Officer administering the Government of the
(L. S.) Island of St. Vincent and its Dependencies, Chancellor and Ordinary of
James Walker. the same, &c. &c. &c.

PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS by an Act passed by the Legislature of this Island, the 16th day of October 1857, intituled, "An Act to alter the Law of Contracts with regard to Immigrants, and for the Encouragement of Emigration, and for the general Regulation of Immigrants," it is enacted that the Governor and Council may from time to time, by Proclamation, name the ports or places from which emigration on bounty is permitted to this Colony, and may fix such rate of bounty as to him shall seem just for indemnifying the person at whose charge any immigrant may be introduced into this Colony, for the expense of his maintenance and passage from the port of embarkation to this Colony; and shall, in his Proclamation to be issued for that purpose, declare the number of weeks deemed necessary for the voyage of any ship or vessel from such respective ports or places to this Colony: Provided always, that no rate of bounty shall be fixed, and that no bounty shall be allowed for the importation of any immigrant who may be incompetent or unwilling to engage in agricultural labour, or for any immigrant above the age of 40 years, unless in either case such immigrant shall be one of a family of immigrants arriving in the same vessel; and provided further, that no bounty or passage-money shall be paid for any greater number of immigrants imported by any one vessel from the Island of Madeira, from any of the Islands of the Azores, Cape de Verde Islands, Canary Islands, and other places of similar distance, than at the rate of one immigrant for each ton of the measurement of such vessel. Now, therefore, I, the said James Walker, Officer administering the Government of the said Island and its Dependencies, acting by and with the advice of Her Majesty's Council for the said Island, do by this my Proclamation, pursuant to the said Act, declare and proclaim that immigration on bounty is permitted to this Colony, subject to the conditions mentioned in the said Act, from the undermentioned ports or places, and that such rates of bounty as are undermentioned shall be paid for indemnifying the person at whose charge any immigrant may be introduced into this Colony, for the expense of maintenance and passage from the port of embarkation to this Colony; and that the number of weeks hereunder mentioned shall be deemed necessary for the voyage of any ship or vessel from the respective ports or places of embarkation to this Colony.

Ports or Places from which Immigration on Bounty is permitted.	Rates of Bounty.	Length of Passage.
	£. s. d.	
Madeira - - - - -	10 - -	Four weeks.
Cape de Verdes - - - - -	10 - -	- ditto.
Azores - - - - -	10 - -	- ditto.
Canaries - - - - -	10 - -	- ditto.
England, Scotland, and Ireland -	10 - -	Six weeks.
United States - - - - -	6 5 -	Four "
British America - - - - -	8 - -	Five "
Virgin Islands - - - - -	3 10 -	Two "

Given under my hand and seal at arms, at Government House, in Kingstown, this 3d day of November, in the year of our Lord 1857, and in the 21st year of Her Majesty's reign.

(By command.)

(signed) *Bouverie Alleyne*,
Colonial Secretary.

Marshal's Office, St. Vincent,
3 November 1857.

Duly proclaimed in Kingstown this day.

(signed) *A. H. Hobson*, Provost Marshal.

Enclosure 3, in No. 5.

ST. VINCENT.

Encl. 3, in No. 5.

(L. S.)

PROCLAMATION,

E. Eyre,
Lieutenant Governor.

By his Excellency *Edward John Eyre*, Esq., Lieutenant Governor
of the Island of St. Vincent and its Dependencies, &c. &c. &c.

WHEREAS by an Act of the Legislature of St. Vincent, intituled, "An Act to alter the Law of Contracts with regard to Immigrants, and for the Encouragement of Immigration, and for the general Regulation of Immigrants," the Governor in Council is empowered from time to time, by Proclamation, to fix the rate of bounty payable on the introduction of immigrants into this Colony under the said Act; and it is thereby provided that no bounty shall be allowed in respect of any immigrant who may be incompetent or unwilling to engage in agricultural labour, or for any immigrant above the age of 40 years, unless, in either case, such immigrant shall be one of a family of immigrants arriving in the same vessel: And whereas by a Proclamation, bearing date the 3d day of November now last past, issued by the Officer administering this Government, by and with the advice of the Council of the said Government, the sum of 10 *l.* was fixed as the rate of bounty payable in respect of immigrants introduced into this Colony from Madeira, the Cape de Verd Islands, the Azores, and the Canary Islands, and also from England, Scotland, and Ireland; the sum of 6 *l.* 5 *s.* for immigrants arriving from the United States of America; the sum of 8 *l.* for immigrants from British America; and the sum of 3 *l.* 10 *s.* for those from the Virgin Islands: And whereas it was deemed expedient to discontinue the bounty so made payable in respect of immigrants from the Virgin Islands, and a notice to that effect was inserted in the "Gazette," dated the 7th day of November last past: And whereas it is not intended to give the full bounty for infants and others not being 15 years of age or upwards: And whereas doubts may arise, under the provisions of the said recited Act, and the terms of the said Proclamation, in respect of such bounty, where claimed in respect of persons being immigrants who by reason of being either incompetent or unwilling to engage in agricultural labour, may yet form part of a family arriving in the same vessel. Now, to obviate such doubts, and to fix the rate of bounty payable in respect of immigrants arriving in this Island, I, the said Edward John Eyre, Esq., Lieutenant Governor of the said Island, by and with the advice and consent of the Council of the same, do, by this my Proclamation issued in pursuance and under the authority of the said recited Act, declare and proclaim as follows: that is to say, the sum of 10 *l.* bounty, made payable in and by the said recited proclamation of the 3d day of November last past, in respect of immigrants from Madeira, the Cape de Verd Islands, the Azores, the Canary Islands, and from England, Scotland, and Ireland, is, and shall be payable only in respect of such immigrants, arriving from any of the places last aforesaid, not being above the age of 40 years, nor under the age of 15 years, as shall at the time of arrival in this Colony be under a valid contract, pursuant to the said Act, to perform agricultural service in this Government, or shall, on arrival, enter into such contract. That the sum of 6 *l.* shall be payable in respect of every immigrant arriving from any of the places last aforesaid, under the age of 15, and over the age of six years, being one of a family arriving in the same vessel, the members of which, or some of whom, shall be under a valid contract to perform agricultural labour; and that the sum of 3 *l.* shall be payable in respect of every immigrant arriving from any of the places last aforesaid, of and under the age of six years, being one of a family of immigrants arriving in the same vessel, the members of which, or some of whom, shall be under contract to perform agricultural labour; and that the sum of 10 *l.* shall be payable for every immigrant arriving from any of the places last aforesaid, over the age of 40 years, arriving in this Colony, being the father or mother of a family arriving in the same vessel, the members of which, or some of whom, shall be under contract to perform agricultural labour. That the amount of bounty allowed in the said hereinbefore recited proclamation for immigrants arriving from the United States of America and from British America, shall be payable and calculated in the same manner, and in the same proportion with regard to age and otherwise, as hereinbefore provided in respect of the bounty allowed for immigrants from Madeira; and that no bounty shall henceforth be allowed for any immigrant from the Virgin Islands.

Given under my hand, and the Great Seal of the said Island, at the Government House, St. Vincent, the 2d day of June, in the year of our Lord 1858.

(By his Excellency's command.)

(signed) *Bouverie Alleyne,*
Colonial Secretary.

Marshal's Office, St. Vincent,
2 June 1858.

Duly proclaimed in Kingstown this day.

(signed) *A. H. Hobson,*
Provost Marshal.

ST. VINCENT.

No. 6.
Governor Hincks
to the Right Hon.
Sir E. B. Lytton,
Bart., M.P.
27 July 1858.

(No. 38.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Hincks* to the Right Honourable
Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart., M.P.

Windward Islands, Barbados, 27 July 1858.
(Received, 16 August 1858.)

Sir,

(Answered, No. 13, 4 September 1858, page 147.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the copy of a Despatch from the Lieutenant Governor of St. Vincent, with several enclosures, on the subject of Chinese emigration to that Colony. The cost per head is, if I am not mistaken, much underrated, and I am not aware that the Emigration Commissioners have made any arrangements for procuring Chinese labourers for the Colonies. I have, however, thought it better not to delay transmitting the Despatch, so that the Commissioners may have the earliest possible notice of the wishes of the St. Vincent Legislature.

I have, &c.
(signed) *F. Hincks.*

Encl. in No. 6.

Enclosure in No. 6.

(No. 47.)

Sir,

Government House, St. Vincent, 24 July 1858.

REFERRING to my Despatch, No. 37, of the 10th ultimo, transmitting a resolution of the Executive Council of this Government, expressing its desire that provision should be made for obtaining immigrants from China, and requesting I would communicate with Her Majesty's Government, with a view to ascertain whether the Imperial guarantee could be obtained for a loan of 20,000 £. for that purpose, I have now the honour to forward a letter from the Speaker of the House of Assembly, together with copies of the documents to which that letter refers.

2. The purpose of the Speaker's communication is to inform me that the two branches of the Legislature, having had a conference on the subject of immigration, have arrived at the following conclusions:

1st. That immigration from China would be the most valuable.

2d. That the Colony is in a position, without at present soliciting a loan from any quarter, at once to commence the system of immigration from China.

3d. That the Lieutenant Governor be requested to communicate with the Home Government on the subject, and to solicit that 500 Chinese emigrants be sent to St. Vincent, with as little delay as possible.

3. In adopting these views, I believe the Legislature has estimated the probable cost of introducing 500 Chinese at not exceeding a rate of 20 £. per head for adults, or 10,000 £. in the whole; and that the greater part of this amount will not require to be paid until the actual arrival of the immigrants, from eight to 12 months hence, during which time the immigration fund will go on rapidly accumulating.

4. In my Despatch, No. 37, 10th June, paragraph 4, I showed from a return by the Colonial Treasurer, that at the end of May of this year—

	£.
The immigration fund in hand was	1,315
The immigration fund to be collected during the residue of the year, and a large portion of which has already been received	1,320
The surplus balance of general revenues	1,000
	<u>£. 3,635</u>

showing that at any moment the Colony is able at once to remit to the Emigration Commissioners a sum exceeding 3,000 £., to meet preliminary expenses, advances to immigrants, &c., upon learning that Her Majesty's Government sanction the undertaking, and are ready to instruct the Emigration Commissioners to take the necessary steps to procure for St. Vincent the 500 Chinese required.

5. In 1859 amounts corresponding to the two first items will again accrue to the immigration fund, besides about 1,800 £. more for the Income and Export Tax Acts, which at the close of 1858 will become solely applicable to immigration; there will thus be available in 1859—

	£.
Sums corresponding to 1,315 £. and 1,320 £.	2,635
Proceeds of Income and Export Tax Acts	1,800
	<u>£. 4,435</u>

making, with the fund already applicable (3,635 £.) an amount of 8,070 £.

The

The difference between this and 10,000 £. could at any moment be raised in the Colony, under an existing "Act to authorize the raising of Loans of Money for Immigration Purposes."

6. It is thus apparent that the Colony is quite in a position at once to advance above 3,000 £. towards meeting the expenses of obtaining 500 Chinese labourers, and to pay the balance of 7,000 £. (if costing so much) on their arrival.

But this calculation presumes that all the immigrants are adults, and costing 20 £. per head; whereas it is both probable and highly important that there should be a fair proportion of women and children amongst the immigrants, which would, of course, reduce the average cost per head very greatly below what has been assumed.

Moreover, the Immigration Act (16 October 1857) provides in the 22d clause, that one-half the cost of introducing the immigrants shall be paid by the parties to whom they are indentured, which would leave only 5,000 £. out of the 10,000 £. (assuming this to be the total sum) to be actually provided by the Colony. I believe the planters are both fully able and fully prepared to pay their shares, though I have thought it right to satisfy the Home Government, before it takes any steps in the matter, that the Colony itself is able to meet the whole demand which the introduction of 500 Chinese will involve.

8. The reason why the Legislature is pressing for the supply of even the small number of 500 immigrants without waiting to learn the result of the application for a loan, which if granted would admit of immigration on a much larger scale, appears to be that it considers the want of labour to be very pressing, and is unwilling to lose the time which would necessarily be occupied in adjusting a loan, when it can commence the system upon a small scale at once from existing resources, and may at any time extend it if larger funds become available.

9. I have earnestly to support the application of the Legislature, and to express my own strong conviction that additional labour is greatly required in St. Vincent, and that the Chinese will constitute the best and most useful description of immigrants attainable.

10. I enclose another copy of the Immigration Act, and beg to report that the amendments to it which are required by the Secretary of State, as pointed out in your Despatch, No. 229 of 28 June last, shall be made and transmitted with as little delay as possible.

His Excellency the Governor in Chief,
Barbados.

I have, &c.
(signed) *E. Eyre.*

P.S.—A communication of similar import to that of the Speaker's, having been received from the President of the Legislative Council, is also enclosed.

E. E.

E. Eyre, Lieutenant Governor.

No. 20 (Joint Message).

Government House, St. Vincent, 8 July 1858.

At the request of the Agricultural Society, the Lieutenant Governor has the honour to lay before the Legislature a letter which has been addressed to him on behalf of the Society by its chairman, expressing the opinion of that body that it is desirable to solicit a loan of 20,000 £. from the Home Government for the purposes of immigration, and that this immigration should consist of Chinese labourers in preference to any other, as being more likely to prove permanently beneficial to the Colony.

2. In transmitting this communication to the Legislature, the Lieutenant Governor has much pleasure in adding, that in a Despatch, dated 10 June ultimo, he brought both these subjects under the notice of the Secretary of State; but that until he receives a reply, official usage precludes him from laying that Despatch before the Legislature.

(By command.)

(signed) *Bouverie Allene*,
Colonial Secretary.

His Honour the President and Members of the
Honourable Board of Legislative Council.

His Honour the Speaker and Members of the
Honourable House of Assembly.

To his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor *E. J. Eyre*, Esq.

Sir,

St. Vincent, 6 July 1858.

I HAVE been directed by the Agricultural Society respectfully to request that your Excellency will bring under the notice of the Legislature the great advantage that would result to the Colony by the introduction of Chinese immigrants as agricultural labourers, and to urge on that body the propriety of taking immediate steps to obtain the sanction of the Home Government to bring them to this Colony, and for raising funds for this purpose; and that I should further state, that as other Colonies have obtained the sanction of the Crown, the Society entertains no doubt but that the benefits of this immigration would readily be extended

ST. VINCENT. to St. Vincent, and that, in its opinion, a loan ought to be solicited from the Home Government, say for 20,000*l.* sterling, to carry out this object, and that the society is satisfied that both principal and interest could be repaid by the Colony in a moderate time without at all pressing heavily on its resources; that from information the Society has received, it appears that the total cost would be at the rate of 20*l.* sterling per adult immigrant, one part of which would be borne by the Colony, and the other by the planter. That the Society considers the Chinese immigrants would prove far more valuable than the East Indian coolie, for it has been proved in Trinidad that he can perform more work, and that he is very industrious; moreover, the Colony is obliged to provide a back passage for the coolie after a certain residence; whereas not only this is not required in the case of the Chinese, but experience has shown that they do not return home, but settle down in the Colony into which they have been introduced. That the Society entertains great doubt as to the success of the endeavours of the Colony to obtain *Métaires* in any number, and even supposing that some are procured, and also some liberated Africans, it is still of opinion that the opportunity to commence a system of Chinese immigration should not be neglected.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Robert Aithen*,
President of the Agricultural Society.

Council Chamber, St. Vincent, 22 July 1858.

The President and Members of the Legislative Council to His Excellency
the Lieutenant Governor.

May it please your Excellency.

THE President and Members of the Legislative Council beg to acknowledge your Excellency's message on the subject of Chinese immigration, and to express their entire concurrence in recommending the adoption of the measure, and pray your Excellency to make application to the Home Government on the subject; and they respectfully beg to express their opinion that no immediate loan would be required, as the immigration fund, now in the treasury, and likely to accrue before the arrival of immigrants, would be sufficient to meet the outlay on the first importation, if such importation did not exceed 400 souls.

(signed) *H. E. Sharpe*, President.

Sir,

Committee-room, St. Vincent, 22 July 1858.

I AM instructed by the Honourable House of Assembly to acknowledge your Excellency's joint message, No. 20, enclosing copy of a letter addressed to your Excellency by the President of the Agricultural Society, on the subject of the importation of emigrants from China into this Colony.

A conference having been held with the Honourable Board of Council, the conferees are of opinion, that immigration from China would be most valuable, and that the Colony is in a position, without at present soliciting a loan from any quarter, at once to commence the system of immigration from China, and that his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor be requested to communicate with the Home Government on the subject, and to solicit that 500 Chinese emigrants be sent here with as little delay as possible.

I have, &c.
To His Excellency the Lieut. Governor. (signed) *George M. Browne*,
Speaker.

— No. 7. —

No. 7.
Governor Hincks
to the Right Hon.
Sir E. B. Lytton,
Bart., M. P.
15 Nov. 1858.

(No. 58.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Hincks* to the Right Honourable
Sir *E. B. Lytton*, Bart., M. P.

Windward Islands, Barbados, 15 November 1858.

(Received, 16 December 1858.)

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you an authenticated copy of an Act of St. Vincent, intituled, "An Act to repeal certain Clauses of an Act, intituled, 'An Act to alter the Law of Contracts with regard to Immigrants; and for the Encouragement of Immigration, and for the General Regulation of Immigrants, and to make other Provision in lieu thereof, and further to amend the said Act,'" together with the report of the Attorney General hereon, and a copy of the correspondence on the subject between Lieutenant Governor Eyre and myself.

I have, &c.
(signed) *F. Hincks*.

No. 718.
Vide Appendix,
No. 12, page 322.

Enclosure 1.
Enclosure 2.
Enclosure 3.

ST. VINCENT.

Encl. 1, in No 7.

Enclosure 1, in No. 7.

(No. 70.)

Sir,

Government House, St. Vincent, 12 October 1858.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, in order that your Excellency's pleasure may be signified in relation thereto, "An Act to repeal certain clauses of an Act, intituled, An Act to alter the Law of Contracts with regard to Immigrants and for the Encouragement of Immigration, and for the general Regulation of Immigrants, and to make other provision in lieu thereof, and further to amend the said Act;" together with the Attorney General's opinion thereon in duplicate.

2. The amendments which the present Act makes upon the Immigration Act, 1857, are for the purpose of remedying the defects pointed out in your Excellency's Despatch, No. 229, 28th June 1858.

His Excellency the Governor in Chief,
Barbados.

I have, &c.
(signed) E. Eyre.

Enclosure 2, in No. 7.

Encl. 2, in No. 7.

(No. 249.)

Sir,

Windward Islands, Barbados, 21 October 1858.

I HAVE received this day your Despatch of the 12th instant, transmitting the copy of a Bill passed by the Council and Assembly of St. Vincent, and intituled, "An Act to repeal certain Clauses of an Act, intituled, An Act to alter the Law of Contracts with regard to Immigrants and for the Encouragement of Immigration, and for the general Regulation of Immigrants, and to make further provision in lieu thereof, and further to amend the said Act;" together with the Attorney General's report thereon; and I have to convey to you the necessary authority to assent to the said Bill.

His Excellency Lieut. Governor Eyre.

I have, &c.
(signed) F. Hincks.

Enclosure 3, in No. 7.

Encl. 3, in No. 7.

(No. 80.)

Sir,

Government House, St. Vincent;
1 November 1858.

I HAVE the honour to transmit authenticated copies of "An Act to repeal certain Clauses of an Act, intituled, An Act to alter the Law of Contracts with regard to Immigrants, and for the Encouragement of Immigration, and for the general Regulation of Immigrants, and to make other provision in lieu thereof, and further to amend the said Act."

His Excellency
the Governor in Chief, Barbados.

I have, &c.
(signed) E. Eyre.

ST. VINCENT.

Despatches from the Secretary of State.

— No. 1. —

No. 1.
Right Hon. H.
Labouchere, M.P.
to Governor Hincks.
25 February 1858.

(No. 128.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable H. Labouchere to
Governor Hincks.

Sir,

Downing-street, 25 February 1858.

HAVING observed that a large number of liberated Africans have been taken into Sierra Leone and located among the resident population, I instructed the Emigration Commissioners to take steps for facilitating the conveyance to the West Indies of such Africans as may hereafter reach that port under similar circumstances. I enclose the copy of an agreement which they have accordingly concluded with Messrs. Hyde, Hodge & Co. I have instructed the Governor of Sierra Leone to use his best endeavours to fill the ships furnished under this agreement with such captured Africans as may consent to emigrate. It is of course impossible to predict the continuance of these captures, or the degree to which the Africans may avail themselves of the opportunity offered them, but I think it desirable to inform you of the steps which I have taken to secure, as far as possible, to the West Indies, the benefits derivable from the operation of Her Majesty's cruisers.

If the Colony of St. Vincent desires to share in the chance of these benefits, I should wish you to forward to me such a statement of the wages and other advantages enjoyed by labourers in that Colony as I may communicate to the Governor of Sierra Leone.

If the Colonists also desire to take advantage of the 16th article of the agreement, it will be necessary to make proper provision for paying the proposed freight of 5*l.* per adult on all emigrants from Sierra Leone, other than captured Africans, and a fee of a dollar per adult to the Emigration Agent who will embark them.

I have instructed the Governor of Sierra Leone to explain to the emigrants of both classes (as far as possible) that they must be prepared, on their arrival, to enter into contracts of service to last for three years, or (in the case of children) till the age of 18. Of course, however, it will not be competent to the Government to impose or sanction such contracts, except in pursuance of some law which is in force in the Colony on the arrival of the immigrants. I draw your attention to this point in order that the Legislature may make such provision, in accordance with the above instructions, as they may consider to be under the existing circumstances required.

I have, &c.

(signed) H. Labouchere.

Parl. Paper,
No. 603 of 1850.

P.S.—You will find in the accompanying Parliamentary Paper, the former instruction to the Emigration Agent at Sierra Leone, and various documents throwing light on this service.

— No. 2. —

(No. 1.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable Lord Stanley, M.P.
to Governor Hincks.

Sir,

Downing-street, 27 February 1858.

I HAVE received your Despatch, St. Vincent, No. 3,* of the 4th January, with one from the Lieutenant Governor, forwarding resolutions of the Legislature of that

No. 2.
Right Hon. the
Lord Stanley, M.P.
to Governor
Hincks.
27 February 1858.

* Page 127.

that Island on the subject of Portuguese immigration, from which it appears that an Agent has been appointed to proceed to Madeira and the Cape de Verd Islands, for the purpose of procuring emigrants from thence.

I see no reason for objecting to this arrangement.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Stanley.*

ST. VINCENT.

— No. 3. —

(No. 13.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable Lord *Stanley*, M. P.
to Governor *Hincks*.

No. 3.
Right Hon. the
Lord *Stanley*, M. P.
to Governor
Hincks.
18 May 1858.

Sir,

Downing-street, 18 May 1858.

THE Emigration Commissioners have informed me that Mr. Brown, employed as the Emigration Agent for St. Vincent, has called their attention in the accompanying letter to the fact that by the Immigration Act which has recently been passed by the Legislature of that Colony, certain inconveniences are entailed on him by the manner in which validity is given to contracts made with emigrants from Madeira.

13 March 1858.
Enclosure.

2. It appears that the Act enacts that the contracts should bear a certificate from the British Consul or notary public, or other person approved of or acting under authority of Her Majesty's Government, that the contracts are legal and understood.

3. As it is difficult at times to procure the attendance of the British Consul for the purpose of notifying these facts, and expensive to retain that of a notary, the Emigration Commissioners have suggested that authority should be granted to Mr. Brown himself "to act under authority of" Her Majesty's Government, for the purpose of giving this certificate; and in accordance with this suggestion, I have conveyed the necessary instruction to the Commissioners.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Stanley.*

Enclosure in No. 3.

Encl. in No. 3.

Sir,

Emigration Office, 4 May 1858.

WE enclose the copy of a letter from Mr. Brown, employed as Emigration Agent for St. Vincent, to collect emigrants from Madeira and the neighbouring Portuguese islands, in which that gentleman draws attention to certain inconveniences entailed on him by the present immigration law of St. Vincent.

In order to give validity to contracts, it is made necessary by the law of St. Vincent, that they should bear a certificate from the British Consul, a notary public, or other person approved of or acting under authority of Her Majesty's Government, that the contracts are voluntary and are understood.

3. It seems that it is difficult at times to procure the attendance of the British Consul for the purpose of certifying to these facts, and expensive to retain that of a notary. Mr. Brown therefore proposes that commanders and surgeons of vessels should be "approved" by Her Majesty's Government for this purpose.

4. This proposal seems to us not admissible, as its adoption would seem to imply that the certificates of the commanders and surgeons of private emigrant ships are sufficient evidence of the propriety of the Collectors' proceedings which they plainly are not. But it appears to us that, when the emigrants are collected by an Agent responsible to Government, the certificate itself is not really required, especially in a place where emigration and its incidents are now so well understood as in these Portuguese islands. No such certificate is required in the Indian emigration.

5. We would therefore suggest that the difficulty might be simply removed by authorising Mr. Brown himself to "act under the authority of" Her Majesty's Government for the purpose of giving this certificate. He called at this office on his way to Madeira, and seemed an intelligent person; and we would suggest that he should be furnished with this authority.

6. The law of St. Kitts, we observe, does not require (as it should have done) the certificate of any officer or notary for giving validity to contracts made in Madeira. But as the Act expired on the 2d of this month, an opportunity will offer itself for requiring the amendment of the law in this respect.

Herman Merivale, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

We have, &c.
(signed) *T. W. C. Murdoch.*
Frederic Rogers.

ST. VINCENT.

Sub-Enclosure.

Gentlemen,

Madeira, 13 March 1858.

In the interview allowed me on Saturday the 13th ultimo, the assistance I required was so readily accorded, I am induced to offer the following remarks, impressed with the belief I can rely on such further co-operation as can be legitimately extended to me.

2. Under the provisions of the Emigration Act of St. Vincent, by which I am guided in my mission, it is enacted, that all contracts shall bear a certificate from the British Consul, a notary public, or other person approved of or acting under the authority of Her Majesty's Government, that the said contracts have been voluntarily entered into and are understood by the subscribing parties.

3. One hundred and sixty emigrants left ten days ago for St. Kitts. The contracts entered into with these people were attested by the captain and surgeon of the vessel, which was regarded as amply sufficient and found to be satisfactory to all concerned. To carry out the provisions of the St. Vincent Act, it is my duty to state that Mr. Heywood, the Vice Consul, has offered me every assistance in his power, but should an equal number of emigrants be willing to go to St. Vincent, it is unreasonable to expect the Consul, whose duties preclude him from devoting his time to any one object, could be able to give unremitting attendance for two or three days. It is impossible to collect the people at one time, to read over and attest the contracts; and if delay occurs in securing his presence when the people are got to the Agent's office, they are very likely to take advantage of it and get out of the way, taking with them the advances they have received, by no means an uncommon occurrence.

To engage in this country the continuous attendance of a notary public for such a period, would be to add a very serious item to charges already sufficiently high.

4. It is under these circumstances I would respectfully suggest that, although the case could be met by a reference to St. Vincent, it can be remedied with much less loss of time by recourse to the alternative the Act permits, viz. some other person approved of or acting under the authority of Her Majesty's Government.

Some of the Colonies have appointed Emigration Agents in this Island, and if one could be appointed by Her Majesty's Government, the difficulties to which I have referred would be overcome, and the general scheme of emigration facilitated.

5. But in the event of such an appointment being at variance with existing treaties between the kingdom of Great Britain and Portugal, then an order approving of commanders of vessels conveying emigrants (and surgeons when such an officer is on board), to attest the contracts, and their authority so to act to be declared to by the Consul in one attestation appended to the muster-roll would meet the point.

To the Commissioners of Emigration,
London.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Jas. H. Brown,*
Acting for St. Vincent.

— No. 4. —

(No. 14.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable Lord *Stanley*, M. P.,
to Governor *Hincks*.

No. 4.
Right Hon. the
Lord Stanley, M. P.
to Governor
Hincks.

27 May 1858.

• Page 116.

Nos. 702, 703, 704,
705.
Vide Appendix,
Nos. 8, 9, 10, 11,
pages 305 to 320.

17 March 1858.
Enclosure 1.

14 April 1858.
Enclosure 2.
10 May 1858.
Enclosure 3.

Sir,

Downing-street, 27 May 1858.

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 86* of the 9th November last, enclosing four Acts passed by the Legislature of St. Vincent for the introduction of immigrants in that Colony.

2. Having referred this Despatch to the Emigration Commissioners, I transmit, for your information and guidance, copy of their reply; I concur in the opinion which it submits, and I have to request that you will desire the Lieutenant Governor to take steps for procuring an amendment of the Act, No. 702, intituled, "An Act to alter the Law of Contracts with regard to Immigrants, and for the Encouragement of Immigration, and for the general Regulation of Immigration," in accordance with the suggestions contained in that report.

I also enclose, for your information and guidance, copy of a correspondence with the India Board, to whom I referred the Act, No. 702.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Stanley*.

Enclosure 1, in No. 4.

Encl. 1. in No. 4.

Sir,

Emigration Office, 17 March 1858.

WE have the honour to submit our report on the following Acts passed by the Legislature of St. Vincent in the month of October last, and referred to us in your letter of the 14th of December last :—

No. 702. To alter the law of contracts with regard to immigrants, and for the encouragement of immigration, and for the general regulation of immigrants.

No. 703. For laying an additional tax on produce to provide a fund for immigration purposes.

No. 704. To appropriate a portion of the general revenue for immigration purposes.

No. 705. To authorise the raising of loans of money for immigration purposes, and to secure and provide for the repayment of such loans.

2. In the last paragraph of the Despatch accompanying these Acts, Governor Hincks alluded to a series of communications from him as having an important bearing on their propriety; and as we found, on examination, that the Acts themselves were in operation, and might without inconvenience be allowed to remain so, we thought it best to delay our report till these further communications were referred to us. Another ground of delay was that it appeared possible that the principles now enforced on our own Colonies in respect of immigration might undergo some modification in consequence of negotiations which were on foot respecting emigration from India into foreign countries.

3. As, however, we have now received and reported on the general objections raised by Governor Hincks to coolie immigration, we have thought it best, without further delay, to dispose of the particular Acts of St. Vincent.

4. The Act No. 702* is taken from the Grenada Immigration Act of 8th September 1855 (already confirmed), with certain additions which were required by the Indian Government and embodied in the Grenada Act of September 24th 1856,† and with a few alterations which we shall notice so far as they are of importance.

* No. 702.
Printed in Emigration Commissioners' Annual Report, 1856. Appendix, page 145.

5. By this Act three kinds of immigration are recognised. First, the Governor is authorised by section 3 to proclaim bounties on labourers introduced into the Colony without being under contract to the importer; next, the Governor may license private persons to introduce immigrants under contract to themselves; and, thirdly, the Government may introduce immigrants at the public expense.

† Printed in Commissioners' Annual Report, 1857. Appendix, p. 163.

6. The first and third classes of immigrants will be indentured on their arrival to employers, chosen by themselves or by the Government, for three years certain, but subject to the obligation of serving two more years with the same employer, or of redeeming one or both of such years at the rate of 2*l.* 10*s.* per annum.

7. On the allotment of any such immigrant, the first employer will be called upon to repay to Government half of the bounty or of the cost of introduction; but of this payment he will receive back one-fifth for every year's service which may be redeemed by the immigrant on the above terms.

8. The second class of immigrants must have been introduced from some place in respect of which bounty has been proclaimed. By an apparent inadvertency no specific limit is placed on the duration of the contracts; such contracts, however, are only valid when "approved and countersigned by the Immigration Agent, and subject to such alterations as the said Agent may, with consent of the parties, have made therein." They must also have been signed by the parties, and attested by a notary public, British Consul, or other person authorised by Government. The importer will receive from Government one-half of the bounty which would have been payable if the immigrant had not been under contract.

9. The 13th clause, if taken by itself, would authorise another kind of immigration, conducted exclusively at the expense of the importer, under contracts of unlimited duration, from "Madeira, the Azores, the Canaries, or Cape de Veid Islands; from any part of Europe or of the West Indies, or of the United States, or of the British provinces of North America, or from China;" but this clause (as in the law of British Guiana) is restricted by the definition of the word immigrant (section 68) to persons introduced under bounty. This, therefore, is so far delusive.

10. Coolie immigrants, as in other Colonies, are entitled to return to their country at their own expense, after five years' industrial residence; and at the expiration of 10 years are entitled to receive back passages at the expense of Government, if they have spent the second term of five years under indentures for not less than one year at a time (on which their employer is to pay an annual tax equal to one tenth of their passage money), or if they have redeemed their labour at the rate of 2*l.* 10*s.* per annum, or if they pay a contribution of 7*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*

11. We regret to say that this Act is, in some respects, at variance with the regulations under which immigration is allowed. It will be perceived by the correspondence which accompanies it, that it originally legalised absolute contracts for five years. But as this

ST. VINCENT.

provision was contrary to the policy of the Home Government, Mr. Hincks required that it should be altered.

12. The effect, however, of the alteration which has been made is (inadvertently, we presume), to legalise contracts of unlimited length, the limit of five years being, we suppose, expunged, and no other limit inserted. It is true that the Immigration Agent has the power of disallowing contracts for more than three years' duration, but it is undesirable that the enforcement of an important principle should depend on a mere discretionary Act of the Executive, which may take ill-informed importers of immigrants by surprise.

13. We would suggest, therefore, that the 13th clause should be altered by inserting after the words "valid in the Colony," the words (which are found in the 14th clause of the Grenada Act above-mentioned,) for "the full period named in such contracts not exceeding three years."

14. The Legislature will probably desire to give validity to contracts made in the localities enumerated in the 13th section by labourers not falling within the statutory definition of immigrant, and to this there can, we imagine, be no objection, if China be omitted from the list. For the present, at least, it would seem inexpedient to resign the control of Government over this emigration.

15. Next the West Indian Acts sanctioned by the Government impose on coolie and other immigrants the obligation, after the termination of their three years' indentures, of entering into a further contract with "the same or some other employers" for two years, or of commuting that period at a fixed rate. The object of this provision was to secure that the immigrant should labour for five years, while leaving him at liberty to quit a disagreeable locality or unpopular employer after three. But in the St. Vincent Act, this purpose is frustrated by omitting the words "or some other." The consequence is that the coolie cannot change his employer at this period without paying 5*l.* to Government. These words ought, therefore, to be reinserted, if the existing terms of immigration are to be maintained.

16. We should point out that the effect of this provision is distinguishable from those laws which enable employers who have paid towards the cost of importing immigrants to recover a rateable proportion of that cost from any person to whom such immigrants may transfer their services before the expiration of five years.

17. And it may also be here observed that the complication of the laws which regulate the duration of contracts in the West Indies arises from the circumstance that custom recognises a contract of service for five years, at the current wages, as an equivalent for the cost of introduction; while the Imperial Government refuses to allow the immigrant to bind himself to a single employer for more than three years. The existing law is a contrivance for reconciling these two principles which, though it seems to be working tolerably well, is undoubtedly productive of a good deal of perplexed discussion in its application to Government, and private emigration respectively.

18. In the 36th clause the words "or to give promissory notes in manner and form provided by section 24 of this Act," are taken from the Act of Grenada, where payment by promissory notes is allowed. But under the St. Vincent Act, all payments are to be made in cash, and these words should therefore be expunged.

19. Mr. Hincks' objections to the rate of payment to be made by planters receiving immigrants will be most conveniently considered in connexion with the other laws forwarded by him.

20. The Act, No. 703, imposes an export duty on produce (in addition to that already levied) which is to be applied to immigration purposes. No. 704 declares that a sum equal to the proceeds of this "additional export tax" shall be advanced from the general revenue for the same purpose; and No. 705 authorises certain Commissioners to borrow 7,000*l.* for the same purposes, chargeable in the first instance on the immigration fund, and, on failure of that fund, on the general revenue, with a preference over all other claims except monies due under "the Loan Act of 1856."

21. It will be seen, therefore, that the expenses of immigration are to be provided for from three sources. Half is to be paid by the individuals to whom the immigrants are allotted, who are to pay one-tenth of the cost of introduction per annum for the first five years of the immigrant's stay in the Colony; or if he receives a return passage, for 10 years. A quarter is to be paid from the export duty levied on the produce of the island, and a quarter from the general revenue. With regard to the first of these, Mr. Hincks objects that in other Colonies a greater share of the cost of immigration is recovered from the individual employer. To this it is answered in substance, that so long as a fair share of the expense is thrown on the planting interest, justice is satisfied; and that the planters themselves may be left to determine what proportion should be thrown on the individual directly benefited by receiving an additional labourer, and what proportion on the bulk of employers who are indirectly benefited by the effect of the immigration on the labour market. This answer appears to us reasonable.

22. Next Mr. Hincks objects that the export tax is charged on a few cotton growers in the Grenadines, and on arrowroot grown by small cultivators. The amount of cotton grown annually in the Government of St. Vincent is 27,359 lbs., and the tax being at the rate of 3*d.* per

3*d.* per cwt., would produce about 3*l.* per annum. The quantity of arrowroot grown by small cultivators is 207,758 lbs., and the tax at 6*d.* per 200 lbs., would produce about 25*l.* The production of arrowroot on larger estates is 521,759 lbs., and we presume it would be impossible to exempt one from taxation without exempting the other.

23. Under these circumstances, it does not appear to us that the injustice done is sufficiently important to require the intervention of the Secretary of State.

24. Mr. Hincks objected, in the first instance, to the charging one quarter of the expenses on the general revenue, the whole body of the tax-payers not being benefited by the emigration.

25. To this it was replied first, that shopkeepers and others not contributing to the export duty were so benefited; and, secondly, that the planters had taken on themselves to defray by the existing export tax a burthen properly chargeable on the whole community. Mr. Hincks admitted the validity of the second argument, and withdrew his objection to this provision of the law. We presume, therefore, that the arrangement is unobjectionable. It is one which can hardly be treated of completely without entering on questions of general taxation, which are beyond the province of this Board.

26. On the whole, it appears to us that the first of the accompanying Acts cannot properly be sanctioned till the alterations which we have pointed out are made; and, as the Act indicates an intention to commence coolie immigration, it would perhaps be convenient to submit it at once to the India Board.

27. We are aware of no objection to any of the three other Acts, unless the preference given to loans contracted under No. 705, conflicts with any claim of the Imperial Government or the Colonial revenue.

Herman Merivale, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

We have, &c.
(signed) T. W. C. Murdoch.
Frederic Rogers.

Enclosure 2, in No. 4.

Encl. 2, in No. 4.

Sir,

Downing-street, 14 April 1858.

I AM directed by Lord Stanley to transmit to you, for the consideration of the Commissioners for the Affairs of India, and in order that it may be communicated to the Court of East India Directors, copy of an Act passed by the Legislature of St. Vincent, intituled, "An Act to alter the Law of Contracts with regard to Immigrants and for the Encouragement of Immigration, and for the general Regulation of Immigrants."

No. 702.

I am also to enclose extract from a report furnished by the Emigration Commissioners upon this Act, and to state that Lord Stanley proposes to call for the amendments suggested by the Commissioners.

Lord Stanley requests that you will move the Court of East India Directors to inform him whether they have any objections to the course proposed to be adopted.

I have, &c.
(signed) H. Merivale.

Enclosure 3, in No. 4.

Encl. 3, in No. 4.

Sir,

India Board, 10 May 1858.

I AM directed by the Commissioners for the Affairs of India to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th ultimo, enclosing a copy of an Act passed by the Legislature of St. Vincent relating to emigration into that Colony.

No. 702

In compliance with the request of Lord Stanley, a copy of the Act and of the enclosed extract from the Emigration Commissioners was forwarded for the consideration of the Court of Directors of the East India Company, and I have now the honour to transmit to you a copy of a letter from Mr. Dickinson, containing the Court's opinion as to the Act, and the course proposed to be adopted.

Herman Merivale, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

I am, &c.
(signed) George Clerk.

Sub-Enclosure.

Sir,

East India House, 6 May 1858.

I HAVE laid before the Court of Directors of the East India Company Sir George Clerk's letter, dated the 26th ultimo, enclosing a copy of an Act passed by the Legislature of St. Vincent, relating to the introduction of emigrants into that Colony, and their regulation, when introduced, and with reference to the intention of the Secretary of State for the Colonies to call for certain amendments suggested by Her Majesty's Emigration Commissioners, requesting that the Board of Commissioners may be furnished with the Court's opinion of the course proposed to be adopted.

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In

ST. VINCENT.

In reply, I am directed to remark that it has been usual to make a reference to the Government of India before pronouncing an opinion on Acts of the Colonial Legislatures relating to the emigration of natives of India. But the Act of the Legislature of St. Vincent being based on that under which emigration is at present carried on to Grenada, and the amendments proposed by the Emigration Commissioners tending to remove the slight differences which exist between the two Acts, the Court will not make any objection to the course proposed to be taken by Lord Stanley. They propose, however, to forward a copy of the correspondence, and of the Act, to the Government of India, and they would wish it to be understood that that Government will be at liberty to suggest any further alterations which they may think desirable; and that it rests with the Government of India to decide whether and when effect is to be given to the Act, so far as relates to the territories under the administration of the East India Company.

The Secretary India Board.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. D. Dickinson.*

— No. 5. —

No. 5.
The Right Hon.
Sir E. B. Lytton,
Bart., M.P. to
Governor Hincks.
29 June 1858.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir *E. B. Lytton*, Bart., M.P.
to Governor *Hincks*.

(No. 2.)

Sir,

Downing-street, 29 June 1858.

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 22,* in which you enclose copy of one from Lieutenant Governor Eyre, reporting the views entertained in the Colony of St. Vincent on the subject of the emigration of captured Africans to the West Indies, and I transmit to you the copy of a letter from the Emigration Commissioners in relation to that subject.

I have communicated a copy of Lieutenant Governor Eyre's Despatch to the Governor of Sierra Leone, pointing out the rate of wages which prevails in the Colony of St. Vincent.

(signed) *E. B. Lytton.*

Encl. in No. 5.

Enclosure in No. 5.

Sir,

Emigration Office, 23 June 1858.

I HAVE to acknowledge your letter of 12th instant, enclosing Despatches from Governor Hincks and Lieutenant Governor Eyre, on the subject of immigration from Sierra Leone to St. Vincent.

2. In our report of 17th February last we explained the arrangement which we had concluded with Messrs. Hyde, Hodge & Co. for the conveyance of Africans from Sierra Leone to the West Indies, and we pointed out the proportions in which, supposing the emigration to continue, the several Colonies should participate in it. We likewise proposed that the first ships should be sent to British Guiana, Trinidad, and St. Lucia, as being the Colonies which had shown the strongest desire for immigration.

3. As we have heard of no more captures of slavers there is little probability that the turn of St. Vincent to receive emigrants from Africa will come round at present. Nevertheless it may be as well to communicate to the Governor of Sierra Leone the rate of wages prevailing in St. Vincent, viz., 8 *d.* a day, with a provision-ground and cottage, and from 10 *d.* to 1 *s.* without, and also to inform him that the Legislature of St. Vincent express their willingness to adopt the arrangement existing in British Guiana and Trinidad, for the payment of a bounty of 5 *l.* per adult on any person who may be placed on board any of the contractors' ships by authority of the Governors of Sierra Leone or St. Helena. Beyond this no practical step remains to be taken at present.

4. In his Despatch Governor Hincks enters on the question as to the sufficiency of the wages prevailing in St. Vincent; and points out that although there is a great demand for labour in Grenada and St. Vincent, and although the former Colony has imported immigrants at a great expense, there is a constant stream of emigration from those islands to Trinidad. The cause he assumes to be the insufficiency of the wages offered in those islands. It is extremely probable that Mr. Hincks is right. At the same time the question is one in which the Home Government could not interfere, but in which, if an error prevails, it must be left to the self interest of those on the spot to correct it.

Herman Merivale, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *T. W. C. Murdoch.*

ST. VINCENT.

— No. 6. —

(No. 6.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable Sir *E. B. Lytton*, Bart, M.P.
to Governor *Hincks*.

No. 6.
The Right Hon.
Sir *E. B. Lytton*,
Bart., M.P. to
Governor *Hincks*.
31 July 1858.

Sir,

Downing-street, 31 July 1858.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 14th June, St. Vincent, No. 31,* with copy of a Despatch from Lieutenant Governor Eyre, forwarding a copy of a Resolution of the Executive Council of that island, praying for a guarantee to a loan not exceeding 20,000 *l.* for immigration purposes.

* Page 131.

I have to acquaint you in reply, that however desirous Her Majesty's Government may be of encouraging the immigration of labourers to St. Vincent, they are unable to hold out a hope of rendering any assistance by means of a guaranteed loan.

(signed) *E. B. Lytton*.

— No. 7. —

(No. 11.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable Sir *E. B. Lytton*, Bart., M.P.
to Governor *Hincks*.

No. 7.
The Right Hon.
Sir *E. B. Lytton*,
Bart., M.P., to
Governor *Hincks*.
12 August 1858.

Sir,

Downing-street, 12 August 1858.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 14th June, St. Vincent, No. 34,† with a Despatch from Lieutenant Governor Eyre, forwarding a proclamation, dated the 2d June, for amending the previous proclamation of the 3d November last, fixing the rates of bounty to be paid on immigrants arriving in that island.

† Page 133.

I have to convey to you my approval of this proclamation.

I have, &c.

(signed) *E. B. Lytton*.

— No. 8. —

(No. 13.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable Sir *E. B. Lytton*, Bart, M.P.
to Governor *Hincks*.

No. 8.
The Right Hon.
Sir *E. B. Lytton*,
Bart., M.P. to
Governor *Hincks*.
4 September 1858.

Sir,

Downing-street, 4 September 1858.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 27th July, St. Vincent, No. 38,‡ transmitting, with other documents, a request from the House of Assembly, that 500 Chinese immigrants may be sent to that island without delay. I request that you will instruct Lieutenant Governor Eyre to inform the Assembly in reply, that I am unable to meet their wishes, as no scheme has been sanctioned by Her Majesty's Government for the introduction of Chinese into the West Indies to be paid for from public funds.

‡ Page 136.

I must, moreover, observe, that the cost of introducing 500 Chinese would amount to a sum of not less than 12,500 *l.*, and that the expense of one ship only could be calculated at less than 6,000 *l.*; whereas it would appear, from Lieutenant Governor Eyre's Despatch, which you have forwarded, that the funds applicable for this service at the end of this year could not exceed 3,635 *l.*

I have, &c.

(signed) *E. B. Lytton*.

ST. KITTS.

Despatches from the Governor.

ST. KITTS.

— No. 1. —

No. 1.

Governor Hamilton
to the Right Hon.
H. Labouchere, M.P.
11 April 1857.

(No. 40.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Hamilton* to the Right Honourable
Henry Labouchere, M.P.

Leeward Islands, Antigua, 11 April 1857.

(Received, 2 May 1857.)

Sir,

(Answered, No. 111, 22 July 1857, p. 153.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith authenticated printed transcripts of an Act passed by the Legislature of St. Christopher, intituled, "An Act to remove Doubts as to the Rights of 'liberated Africans,' in the Islands of St. Christopher and Anguilla, and to amend the Laws relating to Aliens."

*Vide Appendix,
No. 13, page 324.*

2. The accompanying correspondence* will make known to you the circumstances under which I was induced to authorise the Lieutenant Governor to assent to this Act.

I have, &c.

(signed) *K. B. Hamilton.*

Encl. 1, in No. 1.

Enclosure 1, in No. 1.

(No. 72.)

Sir,

St. Christopher, 18 December 1856.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Excellency's consideration, a transcript, together with the law officer's summary, of a Bill passed by the Council and Assembly of this Island, intituled, "An Act to remove Doubts as to the Rights of liberated Africans in the Islands of St. Christopher and Anguilla, and to amend the Laws relating to Aliens."

2. This Bill proposes to go further than the suggestions of the Secretary of State in reference to "liberated Africans," transmitted in your Despatch, No. 26 of the 28th of August last, inasmuch as it declares that any person born abroad of a mother being a natural-born subject, as also any woman married to a natural born subject, or person naturalised, shall have all the rights and privileges of natural-born subjects; and it further extends to all aliens being subjects of a friendly State, the proprietary rights of natural-born British subjects within this Island and Anguilla, restricting these latter, however, from the enjoyment of certain specified political privileges.

3. In conformity with the Royal instructions, this Bill contains a suspending clause.

I am, &c.

(signed) *Hercules G. R. Robinson.*

His Excellency the Governor in Chief,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. 2, in No. 1.

Enclosure 2, in No. 1.

(No. 44.)

Sir,

Antigua, Government House,
26 December 1857.

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 72 of the 18th instant, enclosing transcript of a Bill passed by the Council and Assembly of St. Christopher, intituled, "An Act to remove Doubts as to the Rights of liberated Africans in the Islands of St. Christopher and Anguilla, and to amend the Laws relating to Aliens."

2. It

* Lieutenant Governor Robinson to Governor Hamilton, No. 72, 18 December 1856. Governor Hamilton to Lieutenant Governor Robinson, No. 44, 26 December. Lieutenant Governor Robinson to Governor Hamilton, No. 1, 1 January 1857. Governor Hamilton to Lieutenant Governor Robinson, No. 4, 9 January 1857. Lieutenant Governor Robinson to Governor Hamilton, No. 11, 15 January 1857. Governor Hamilton to Lieutenant Governor Robinson, No. 6, 23 January 1857.

2. It would, I think, be desirable that the two parts of the Bill relating to the rights of liberated Africans, and to the more extensive subject of aliens, should be separated into two Bills, in accordance with the Royal instructions, which in the passing of laws direct that whatever may be requisite upon each different matter, be provided for by a different law.

3. The first three clauses relating to liberated Africans have received the consideration of the Secretary of State in a similar enactment in another Colony, which has been assented to by Her Majesty in Council, and there can be no objection to them with the necessary clause.

4. The remainder of the Bill purports by the marginal reference to be taken for the 7 & 8 Vict. c. 66; but the 5th clause goes beyond that statute, in proposing to enact that any alien being the subject of a friendly State, shall and may take and hold by purchase, gift, bequest, representation, or otherwise, to him and his heirs, any real estate, while the Imperial Act allows only the taking and holding by aliens of personal property, except chattels real, and the taking and holding of lands, houses, and tenements, for residence, occupation, business, trade, or manufacture, for a certain period.

5. It is with reference to this part of the Bill that I think it had better be divided into two enactments; for the rights of liberated Africans, about which there is no question, may be postponed, in case Her Majesty's Government shall object to the provisions of the Bill in regard to aliens. It is rightly stated by the Attorney General in his summary, that the 5th clause is taken from an Act recently passed in Nevis, but the subject should be separately submitted for consideration.

6. There is also an inaccuracy in the language of the 5th, 7th, and 8th clauses of the Bill in referring to the time of the passing of the Act, instead of the time when the Act shall come into operation.

7. It is also proper that a Bill enabling aliens to hold any species of personal property should contain a provision that the enactment shall not be deemed to interfere with the provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act, 17 & 18 Vict. c. 104.

I have, &c.
(signed) *K. B. Hamilton.*
Governor in Chief.

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor,
St. Kitts.

Enclosure 3, in No. 1.

Encl. 3, in No. 1.

(No. 1)

Sir,

St. Christopher, 1 January 1857.

I HAVE received your Excellency's Despatch, No. 44 of the 26th ultimo, containing observations upon a Bill lately passed by the Council and Assembly of this Island, intituled, "An Act to remove Doubts as to the Right of liberated Africans in the Islands of St. Christopher and Anguilla, and to amend the Laws relating to Aliens;" and in reference to the objections raised by your Excellency to this proposed enactment, I have the honour to transmit herewith a report which I have received from the Crown law officer.

2. I am precluded by the rules and practice of the Legislative Houses of this Island from taking any steps for bringing this proposed enactment under their consideration in its present state. I shall, therefore, be glad to receive definite instructions for my guidance, whether I am to assent to or disallow this Bill, as I fail to discover in your Despatch, No. 44, an intimation of the precise course which your Excellency would now wish me to pursue in this respect.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Hercules G. R. Robinson.*

His Excellency the Governor in Chief,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 4, in No. 1.

Encl. 4, in No. 1.

Sir,

Antigua, Government House,
9 January 1857.

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 1, of the 1st instant, with a report of the Crown law officer on the subject of the Bill, intituled, "An Act to remove Doubts as to the Rights of liberated Africans in the Islands of St. Christopher and Anguilla, and to amend the Laws relating to Aliens," and informing me that you were precluded, by the rules and regulations of the Legislative Houses, from taking any steps to bring the proposed enactment under their reconsideration.

2. The law officer of the Crown states that the Bill in question embraces but one subject-matter; but he also states, that while it naturalises liberated Africans and females married to British subjects, it confers on certain aliens privileges far short of naturalisation, which appear to me distinct subjects. It confers on all aliens, subjects of a friendly State, the right to hold, without naturalisation, every description of personal property; and, to prevent misconception, I thought it desirable that there should be an exception in regard to vessels, by an express recognition of the Merchant Shipping Act.

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ST. KITTS.

3. By the 25th section of the Royal instructions, the Governor is prohibited from assenting to any Bill for establishing a title in any person to lands, tenements, or real estate, purchased by aliens, antecedent to naturalisation; and this Bill will recognise the title of aliens without naturalisation to land acquired from the passing of this Bill, and antecedent to Her Majesty's assent. The language, therefore, in the 5th, 7th, and 8th clauses, to which I have referred as inaccurate, was proper in the Nevis Act, to which I was authorised to assent without a suspending clause.

4. If, however, you are of opinion that the two measures cannot be disunited, without risking the ultimate failure of both, as intimated by the law officer of the Crown, you have my authority to assent to the Bill, in order that I may refer the same to Her Majesty's Secretary of State.

5. I transmit for your information the copy of the opinion of the Solicitor General of this Island on the measure.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Ker B. Hamilton,*
Governor in Chief.

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. 5, in No. 1.

Enclosure 5, in No. 1.

(No. 11.)

Sir,

St. Christopher, 15 January 1857.

I HAVE received your Excellency's Despatch, No. 4 of the 9th instant, enclosing, for my information, a copy of the opinion of the Solicitor General of Antigua upon the Alien Bill lately passed by the Council and Assembly of this Island, and I have the honour to transmit a further report which I have received from the Crown law officer upon the subject.

2. I do not feel authorised to accord the Executive assent to this proposed enactment without further instructions from your Excellency, as the authority to assent to the Bill conveyed in the 4th paragraph of your Despatch is contingent upon my being "of opinion that the two measures cannot be disunited without risking the ultimate failure of both."

3. I can see no grounds for arriving at such a conclusion; on the contrary, so far as it is possible to form any conjecture as to the course which a new House of Assembly might pursue in a future Session, I am disposed to think that every disposition would be evinced to entertain, at the proper time, any reasonable amendment.

4. But I am advised by the law officer of the Crown that the Bill must, in the first instance, either be assented to or disallowed. If disallowed, I am informed that the House of Assembly would not reconsider the question in the present Session, as they have repeatedly declined entertaining the same measure twice in the same Session; and as prorogation would at present be inconvenient, the measure would probably be shelved until the end of this year, or the commencement of 1858.

5. Under these circumstances, it remains for your Excellency to determine, irrespective of the merits of the objections raised, or the question as to the measure being ultimately passed in another shape or not, whether in the meanwhile the Bill may be assented to for the purpose of being referred to the Secretary of State.

6. It appears to me that neither delay nor inconvenience can result from the adoption of such a course, while on the contrary much good may follow; for if the measure be objected to in its present shape, we shall then be placed in a position, long before the Bill can, under any circumstances, be again brought before the Legislative Houses, to frame a new enactment or enactments in such a manner as to ensure the approval of Her Majesty's Secretary of State.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Hercules G. R. Robinson.*

His Excellency the Governor in Chief,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. 6, in No. 1.

Enclosure 6, in No. 1.

(No. 6.)

Sir,

Antigua, Government House,
23 January 1857.

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 11 of the 15th instant, requesting further instructions with reference to the Bill, intituled, "An Act to remove Doubts as to the Right of liberated Africans in the Islands of St. Christopher and Anguilla, and to amend the Laws relating to Aliens," in which you state you had been informed that, if the Bill were disallowed, the House of Assembly would not re-consider the subject in the present session, and that as a prorogation would be inconvenient, the measure would probably be shelved until the end of this year or the commencement of 1858.

2. Under these circumstances, I authorise you to assent to the Bill.

3. It is to be regretted that any rules should prevail with the Assembly by which important measures may be indefinitely postponed; and I may express the hope that a rule so disadvantageous to the progress of public business may be hereafter modified.

4. I cannot, however, in reference to future legislation, consider the existence of any such rule as authorising a departure from a Royal instruction.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Ker B. Hamilton,*
Governor in Chief.

— No. 2. —

ST. KITTS.

(No. 80.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Hamilton* to the Right Honourable
Sir E. Bulwer Lytton, Bart., M. P.

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
 9 August 1858.

(Received, 2 September 1858.)

Sir,

(Answered, No. 24, 5 October 1858, p. 154.)

HAVING transmitted to the Lieutenant Governor of St. Kitts, Lord Stanley's Despatch, St. Kitts, No. 18* of 18th May, on the subject of the omission in the Immigration Act of St. Kitts, of any certificate from any person authorised by Her Majesty's Government that the contracts made with emigrants from Madeira are voluntary, and understood by them, I enclose copy of a Despatch from the Lieutenant Governor, explaining the course pursued in St. Kitts to prevent imposition in the contract of immigrants in respect of whom bounty is paid.

I have, &c.
 (signed) *Ker B. Hamilton.*

No. 2.
 Governor Hamilton
 to the Right Hon.
 Sir E. B. Lytton,
 Bart., M.P.
 9 August 1858.

* Page 154.

Enclosure.

Enclosure in No. 2.

Encl. in No. 2.

(No. 47.)

Sir,

St. Christopher, 16 July 1858.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Despatch, forwarding for my guidance a copy of a Despatch from the Secretary of State, pointing out an omission in the St. Kitts Immigration Act of any clause requiring, from any person authorised by Her Majesty's Government, a certificate that the contracts made with emigrants from Madeira are voluntary, and are understood by them, and desiring that the omission should be rectified in any future Act.

2. I am not quite clear whether it is the desire of the Secretary of State that such a certificate should for the future be obtained from an authorised Agent of Government residing in Madeira; or, if a certificate from an officer of this Government, previous to the emigrants being allowed to land, would be considered a sufficient security. If the latter is all that is necessary, I beg leave to point out that such a precaution has hitherto invariably been adopted under the provisions of the existing Acts.

3. The Immigration Act is not in itself a complete measure, but must be read in connexion with the "Masters and Servants Act," to which it forms a sequel. By the 13th clause of the Masters and Servants Act (No. 84), the Lieutenant Governor is empowered to appoint a Superintendent of Emigrants to watch over the interests of indigent and ignorant persons who may from time to time arrive in this Island from beyond the seas. By the 13th clause of the Immigration Act (No. 107), it is provided that no contract for service shall be valid unless countersigned by such Superintendent of Immigration, and that he shall be at liberty to refuse his counter-signature in case it appears to him that any fraud has been practised or that the contract is unreasonable.

4. Feeling upon the passing of the Immigration Act how much would depend upon the conduct of the Superintendent, who would moreover practically be in a great measure an irresponsible agent, no salary or remuneration of any description being allowed for his services, I determined to retain the matter under my own immediate superintendence, and appointed to the office my private Secretary, Mr. William Robinson, as reported in my Despatch, No. 33 of the 1st of August 1855.

5. The system hitherto adopted under the laws in force has been as follows: Upon the arrival of every vessel with immigrants, the Superintendent visits the ship, and before affixing his counter-signature to the contract, without which the vessel cannot obtain the bounty money, he ascertains that the immigrants are satisfied with the treatment received during the voyage; that the terms of the contract are reasonable; that the signatures or marks of the immigrants thereto are genuine, that they were voluntarily attached, and with a clear understanding of the nature of the agreement entered into. He then, if satisfied, sanctions their disembarkation, and, in conjunction with the Immigration Committee, superintends their distribution throughout the Island.

6. I have carefully watched the introduction of immigrants into this Island from Madeira since the passing of the Act in 1855, and I believe that the system adopted here, when faithfully carried out, affords as good a guarantee as can be devised against misrepresentation, or any other unfair dealing with the immigrants. Every importer of immigrants knows that he must undergo this scrutiny upon arrival in this Island before he can qualify himself for the payment of the bounty money; that he must also come here accompanied by evidence to prove, if necessary (in the event of a fraudulent denial on the part of the immigrants), that the contract made by them was voluntary, and that the nature of it was fully explained to them; and he is aware that in the event of his inability to prove these facts he might have to land them here free, and unbound by any agreement for service. I believe the importer would be glad to substitute for this ordeal the certificate of an official at a foreign port.

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ST. KITTS.

7. I have thought it right to make these few observations as to the securities provided against wrong to the immigrants under the existing Acts; but, at the same time, I beg to state that I am satisfied there will be no indisposition here to substitute for the present system, or even to add to it if required, a certificate from some officer at Madeira, if such is the desire of the Secretary of State.

8. I entertain, however, grave doubts whether the substitution of a certificate from an officer in Madeira for the present system would be as good a security for the immigrant; and if it were required, in addition to the precautions at present adopted here, it may also fairly be questioned whether any benefit could be derived from thus dividing the responsibility.

9. The only improvement which I can suggest in the system in force here is, that in all future appointments the Superintendent should be a paid, and consequently a responsible officer. The duties of his office, if faithfully discharged, are onerous and important; and, in addition to these, I observe, that the immigrants appear to look upon him as their adviser and friend, and whenever, during the period of their contract, they imagine themselves to be aggrieved, they almost invariably apply to him for advice before having recourse to legal proceedings before a magistrate.

His Excellency the Governor in Chief,
&c. &c. &c.
Antigua.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Hercules G. R. Robinson.*

— No. 3. —

(No. 131.)

No. 3.
Governor Hamilton
to the Right Hon.
Sir E. B. Lytton,
Bart., M. P.
24 Dec. 1858.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Hamilton* to the Right Honourable
Sir *E. Bulwer Lytton*, Bart., M. P.

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
24 December 1858.

(Received, 20 January 1859.)

Sir,

(Answered, No. 63, 16 February 1859, p. 155.)

Enclosure.

I HAVE the honour to forward a Despatch from the Lieutenant Governor of St. Kitts, No. 91 of the 14th instant, enclosing a resolution adopted on the 6th of September by the Committee for promoting the Immigration of Agricultural Labourers, requesting that a portion of the captured Africans which are or may become disposable as emigrants, may be sent to St. Kitts.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Ker B. Hamilton.*

Encl. in No. 3.

Enclosure in No. 3.

(No. 91.)

Sir,

St. Christopher, 14 December 1858.

Sub-Enclosure.

I HAVE the honour to enclose to you, for the consideration of the Secretary of State, a copy of a communication addressed to me by the Chairman of the Immigration Committee, covering a resolution adopted by the Committee in relation to captured Africans.

His Excellency the Governor in Chief,
&c. &c. &c.
Antigua.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Hercules G. R. Robinson.*

Sub-Enclosure.

Sir,

Bassterre, 3 December 1858.

I HAVE the honour to transmit for your Excellency's information, copy of a resolution adopted by the Committee for promoting the Immigration of Agricultural Labourers, at a meeting held on the 6th September last, and respectfully to request that your Excellency will be pleased to give effect to the same.

His Excellency the Governor in Chief,
Antigua.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. L. Berridge,*
Chairman Immigration Committee.

Immigration Committee, 6 September 1858.

It was Resolved,

THAT his Excellency be respectfully requested to apply on behalf of this Island for a proportion of the captured Africans which are or may become disposable as emigrants to the West Indies.

Committee Rooms, 2 December 1858.

Despatches from the Secretary of State.

— No. 1. —

(No. 111.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable *H. Labouchere*, M.P.
to Governor *Hamilton*.

No. 1.

Right Hon. *H.*
Labouchere, M.P.
to Governor
Hamilton.
22 July 1857.

Sir,

Downing-street, 22 July 1857.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith an order made by Her Majesty in Council on the 16th instant, specially confirming the Act passed by the Legislature of St. Christopher to remove doubts as to the rights of liberated Africans in that Colony, which accompanied your Despatch, No. 40 * of the 11th April last: I beg, however, to call your attention to the enclosed copy of a letter from the Board of Trade, suggesting some amendments in the Act, which will require the consideration of the local Legislature.

* Page 148.

17 June.

I have, &c.

(signed) *H. Labouchere*.

Enclosure in No. 1.

Encl. in No. 1.

Office of Committee of Privy Council for Trade,
Whitehall, 17 June 1857.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, transmitting, by the direction of Mr. Secretary Labouchere, for the opinion of the Lords of this Committee, an Act (No. 442 of 1857) passed by the Legislature of St. Christopher, relating to the rights of liberated Africans and aliens.

In reply, I am to state to you, for the information of Mr. Secretary Labouchere, that if, as appears to be the case, the general provisions of the 5th section of this Act apply to ships, as well as to other property, they are not, in my Lords' opinion, consistent with those provisions of the 18th section of the Merchant Shipping Act 1854. That section enacts, in substance, that a ship cannot be treated as a British ship, or use the British flag, unless owned by British subjects, and consequently gives to British subjects rights which it refuses to all foreigners, viz., the right of owning the particular species of property called a British ship, and the right of using that property under the protection of the British flag. This is clearly inconsistent with the very full and explicit language of the 5th section of the Colonial Act. The objection is, however, not of such importance as to render it necessary to suspend the Colonial Act, as it is clear that the general language of the 5th section of the Colonial Act must be controlled by the provisions of the Imperial Act.

My Lords think, however, that the attention of the Governor should be called to sections 18, 19, and 38, of the Merchant Shipping Act (17 & 18 Vict. c. 104), and to forms B. and C. in the Appendix to that Act, as well as to paragraphs 12 and 13 in the Instructions to the Registrar of British Shipping, which have already been transmitted to the Colonies, and that he should be warned not to allow aliens in the Colony to own British ships, or to sail ships under the British flag. My Lords also think that advantage should be taken of the first opportunity to introduce such a qualification of the Colonial Act as may be necessary to bring the 5th section into accordance with the provisions of the Imperial Act.

The remaining clauses of the Colonial Act do not appear to call for any observations from this Board.

Herman Merivale, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.
Colonial Office.

I have, &c.
(signed) *James Booth*.

— No. 2. —

No. 2.

(No. 18.)

Right Hon.
Lord Stanley, M.P.
to Governor
Hamilton.
18 May 1858.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable the Lord Stanley M.P.
to Governor Hamilton.

Sir,

Downing-street, 18 May 1858.

I HAVE to acquaint you that my attention has been called to the fact that, by the Immigration Act of St. Christopher, which expired on the 2d instant, no certificate was required from the British Consul, notary public, or other person, approved of and acting under the authority of Her Majesty's Government, that the contracts made with emigrants from Madeira are voluntary and are understood.

It appears to me necessary that in any future Act this omission should be rectified; and you will therefore inform the Officer administering the Government of that Colony that a clause should be introduced accordingly into any such Act.

I have, &c.
(signed) Stanley.

— No. 3. —

No. 3.

(No. 24.)

Right Hon. Sir E.
B. Lytton, Bart.,
M.P. to Governor
Hamilton.
5 October 1858.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart., M.P.
to Governor Hamilton.

Sir,

Downing-street, 5 October 1858.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 9th August, St. Kitts, No. 80, with copy of one from Lieutenant Governor Robinson, on the subject of the omission in the Immigration Act of that Island of provision for a certificate from any person authorised by Her Majesty's Government that the contracts made with emigrants from Madeira are voluntary and understood by them.

I transmit to you, for your information, a copy of a letter from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, to whom I caused these Despatches to be referred.

I concur in opinion with the Commissioners that the same rule which is applied to other Colonies should be applied to St. Kitts; and I have to request that you will instruct Lieutenant Governor Robinson to cause a clause to be inserted in the next immigration law, as suggested by the Commissioners.

I have, &c.
(signed) E. B. Lytton.

Encl. in No. 3.

Enclosure in No. 3.

Sir,

Emigration Office, 23 September 1858.

I HAVE to acknowledge Lord Carnarvon's letter of 9th instant, enclosing the copy of a Despatch from the Governor in Chief of the Leeward Islands, with one from the Lieutenant Governor of St. Kitts, respecting a proposed amendment in the immigration law.

2. The immigration laws of other Colonies approved by the Secretary of State, enact, with regard to emigrants from the Portuguese Island in the Atlantic, from Europe, the United States, or British North America, that the immigrants' contracts made out of the Colony shall not be valid unless approved by the Immigration Agent on their arrival, nor unless they are attested by a notary public, or British Consul, or by some other person approved by or acting under the authority of Her Majesty's Government, who shall declare that the parties entered into it voluntarily, and with a full understanding of its meaning.

3. The immigration law of St. Kitts, which sanctions immigration from the places above enumerated, provides that no such contract shall be valid unless countersigned by the Superintendent of Immigrants, who may refuse his counter-signature if it appear to him that fraud has been practised, or that the contract is evidently unreasonable; but it makes no provision for the attestation at the port of embarkation.

4. In Lord Stanley's letter of 2d of April 1858, the Lieutenant Governor was required to procure the introduction into the St. Kitts law of a clause supplying this omission.

5. The Lieutenant Governor answers by pointing out that he has appointed his private Secretary to be Superintendent of Immigrants; that he watches himself over the administration

tration of the law, and that he considers that no better security could be devised than that which already exists, and which makes it the interest of importers to act with regularity.

6. I have no doubt that the steps taken by Mr. Robinson have, in fact, secured regularity in an emigration now so well understood by the emigrants as that from the Portuguese Islands. But it will be observed, that he himself states the Superintendent of Immigrants to be in a great "measure an irresponsible agent, no salary or remuneration of any description being allowed for his services." And, as a general rule, it is plain that the discovery of a fraud at the end of a voyage, when the emigrants have left their country without the power of returning to it, is a very different thing from the same discovery at the moment of embarkation, when it is not too late for them to withdraw, and remain at home.

7. I would recommend, therefore, that the same rule which is applied to other Colonies should be applied to St. Kitts, and that a clause should be inserted in the next immigration law in the terms of the Trinidad Ordinance, No. 24, of 1854, sect. 5; or the Grenada Act, No. 230, 8th September 1855, sect. 14; the former is printed in our Annual Report of 1855, Appendix, page 97; the second in our Report for 1856, Appendix, page 149.

Herman Merivale, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Frederic Rogers.*

— No. 4. —

(No. 63.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir *E. B. Lytton*, Bart., M.P.,
to Governor *Hamilton*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 16 February 1859.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch, No. 131,* of the 24th December last, forwarding a Resolution passed by the Immigration Commissioners of St. Kitts, requesting that a portion of the captured Africans who are or may become disposable, may be sent to that island.

I request that you will instruct the officer administering the Government of St. Kitts to inform the Committee that the number of captured Africans disposable is so small that there is no chance that any will be available for St. Kitts.

I have, &c.
(signed) *E. B. Lytton.*

ST. KITTS.

No. 4.

Right Hon. Sir *E. B. Lytton*, Bart.,
M.P., to Governor
Hamilton.

16 February 1859.

* Page 152.

MAURITIUS.

MAURITIUS.

Despatches from the Governor.

No. 1.

Governor Higginson to Right Hon.
H. Labouchere,
M. P.
12 January 1857.

(No. 1.)

— No. 1. —

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor *Higginson* to the Right Honourable
H. Labouchere, M. P.

Mauritius, 12 January 1857.

(Received 18 March 1857.)

Sir,

(Answered, No. 318, 18 April 1857, page 257.)

REFERRING to my previous Despatches, announcing the suspension of immigration from India, I have now the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a communication from the Secretary of that Government, explanatory of the reasons which have led to the adoption of this measure; and a copy of the reply, with its several annexures, made thereto by my directions.

2. I likewise annex a copy of the report presented by a committee of the whole Legislative Council (and adopted with only one dissentient voice), to whom the letter from the Government of India was referred.

3. It will be perceived, from a perusal of these documents, that the Government of India is dissatisfied with the measures adopted for the accommodation and medical treatment of the immigrants who arrived here in January of last year, in the ships "Hydere" and "Futteh Mombarrack," whilst subjected to quarantine; that it considers Flat Island to be wholly unfitted for the purposes of a lazaret; that the existing quarantine regulations bear with peculiar and unnecessary harshness on the Indian immigrants; and that until the lazaret is placed on the mainland, and the quarantine regulations are so altered and revised as to afford better security for the due protection and proper treatment of the natives of India on their arrival, the prohibition now imposed on immigration will not be withdrawn.

4. That, on the other hand, the imputation of careless indifference and neglect towards the immigrants in question, imputed by the Government of India, is repudiated by that of Mauritius, and the obstacles that prevented prompter action for their relief explained; that the latter impugns the accuracy of much of the information on which the Government of India has condemned Flat Island; that it is expected the improvements now in progress for facilitating the anchoring of vessels and landing of boats will render this island perfectly accessible, except in weather of extremely rare occurrence; that on such occasions the coolie ships could anchor in the roadstead of Port Louis, where they could ride in safety until the weather moderated, and admitted of disembarkation on Flat Island; that the Government of India is invited to appoint a resident agent at Mauritius, if it should require this additional guarantee for the protection of its subjects; and that in all other respects this island is held to be peculiarly well adapted to the purposes of a quarantine station.

5. It is moreover promised that the Colonial Legislature will at once re-consider the laws of quarantine, with a view to the removal of the objections taken to them by the Government of India, so far as it may be found consistent with the safety of the public health.

6. Fearing that the Government of India will not be satisfied with this partial acquiescence in the conditions exacted, and that in consequence valuable time will be lost by further negotiations, I advocated the formation of a cholera lazaret on the mainland, where coolies might be disembarked only when a landing could

could not be effected on Flat Island. By this arrangement not only would the practice of imposing "quarantine under sail," and a prohibition against vessels coming to anchor, to both of which the Government of India especially objects, be discontinued; but it would have fulfilled the condition laid down by that Government, that immigrants should be landed immediately on their arrival, whilst at the same time, in my opinion, greater security could be taken against the introduction of disease, in a strongly stockaded lazaret, watched by a military guard, than by permitting the infected ship to lay at anchor in the roadstead of Port Louis.

7. This proposition was made in committee, but rejected by a large majority, who are strongly opposed to resorting to the mainland, under any circumstances whatever, in which view they are warmly supported by as large a majority of the people of Mauritius, who either cling to the hope that the Indian Government will be induced to modify its demands, or prefer to try the chances of further negotiation, and to suffer the consequences of a more protracted suspension of immigration, rather than accept the possible contingency, however distant, of persons infected with cholera being disembarked on the mainland, a measure, in their estimation, pregnant with the utmost danger to the public health.

8. So strong are these convictions, and so dominant these apprehensions, that seeing the hopelessness of any successful attempt being made to stem the tide of popular opinion, I considered it to be my duty to espouse the views entertained by the Colony, on this, to it, vital question; and to cordially support the representations submitted to the Government of India, in order to obtain the withdrawal of the prohibition on the terms proposed by the Legislative Council.

9. If the quarantine restrictions be so far modified as to harmonise with the views of the Government of India, and with the practice of other countries, I submit that by the terms proposed by the Council, all essential objects may be attained. The administration of quarantine, it must be confessed, has at times been influenced more by alarm for the introduction of disease, than by due consideration for the comfort and convenience of those on whom it was imposed. An extreme dread of contagion overcame all attempts to mitigate its severity, and seemed to bid defiance to the contingency which has now occurred. My attention was early directed to the danger to which immigration was exposed by the course pursued, but my efforts to avert it proved fruitless; and all the regulations since adopted have been based on the prevailing theory.

10. The first results of the suspension will be to raise the price of labour, and to retard the extension of cultivation now in general progress; the temporary interruption will do no permanent injury, whilst the present value of sugar will enable planters to meet without much inconvenience, the expected advance in wages. But the general effect of the alarm and distrust excited by the measure, cannot fail to more or less circumscribe the operations of agriculture and commerce.

11. The disastrous consequences, however, that must inevitably follow if the prohibition should be prolonged, I need not attempt to describe. A reference to the past history of Mauritius, and a glance at the chequered phases through which she has passed, will at once disclose them. It will, perhaps, be said that these cannot again recur with the large number of immigrant labourers in the Colony; but as the term of their "industrial residence" expires, a large proportion of these men will annually return to India, not to come back again, as is now so frequently their wont. There would then ultimately remain only the comparatively few who have adopted Mauritius as their future home, of whom many are engaged in other pursuits, and will not work on plantations for hire. I need not pursue the story to its cheerless end, nor strive to enlist the sympathies of Her Majesty's Government, or solicit its mediation, if necessary, with that of the Honourable the East India Company, in averting so grievous a calamity from a valuable possession of the Crown, which after many harassing struggles and perilous ordeals, has at length attained a degree of prosperity almost unexampled in the annals of Colonial progress. For I well know that you, sir, will appreciate the conjuncture, and will not fail to adopt the measures which in your superior judgment may appear best calculated to meet the crisis, and to protect the interests of the Colony.

MAURITIUS.

12. Amongst the enclosures will be found a copy of an address from the Chambers of Agriculture and Commerce to the Right Honourable the Governor General of India in Council, praying for the early reopening of immigration, and which, at their desire, has been forwarded by me to his Lordship.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Jno. Higginson.*

Encl. 1, in No. 1.

Enclosure 1, in No. 1.

From *Cecil Beaden*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, to the Hon. *J. Dowland*, Colonial Secretary, Mauritius; dated the 31st October 1856.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to address you in continuation of my Despatch No. 1352, dated the 24th instant, wherein his Excellency the Governor of Mauritius was informed that the Right Honourable the Governor General of India in Council had felt compelled to suspend emigration of natives of India to the Mauritius from the 24th instant.

2. I am now directed to explain, for the further information of his Excellency, the reasons which led the Government of India to come to this resolution, and I am directed to express, on behalf of the Governor General in Council, a confident expectation, that however seriously the decision taken may for a time affect the commercial interests of the island, his Excellency and the people of Mauritius will, upon a calm review of the whole circumstances of the case, admit that no other course was open to the Government of India than that which it has adopted.

3. From the official report of the chief medical officer, enclosed in your Despatch of the 27th June 1856, to the address of the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, it appears, that although there had been considerable sickness and mortality in both the "*Futteh Mombarruck*" and "*Hydere*" during the voyage from Calcutta to Mauritius, there was no sickness on board either vessel when they arrived at Mauritius, except a few cases of fever. The vessels were, however, placed in quarantine, and after some days' delay, during which a few fresh cases of illness occurred, but none of cholera, it was resolved by the Board of Health that the ships should proceed to Gabriel Island, and there land the immigrants, to remain in quarantine for an indefinite period. The immigrants by the "*Futteh Mombarruck*" were landed on the 14th, and those by the "*Hydere*" on the 17th and 18th January; they remained there till the 6th May, and during the intervening period of 16 weeks, out of 697 immigrants who were landed on the island 284 perished.

4. The chief medical officer is of opinion that there was no cholera during the voyage on board either ship; but the disease broke out immediately after the immigrants had disembarked on Gabriel Island, "running its course with all the features of a fresh epidemic;" and in the first six weeks of their stay on the island, there were 190 deaths among them, of which about one-half were from cholera, and the other half from fever, dysentery, and other causes.

5. During the whole of this period the unfortunate immigrants were exposed to all the inclemency of the monsoon, with no other shelter than tents to protect them from its effects. They had no proper medical attendance. Of the supply of medical stores and provisions nothing is said; but it is vaguely admitted in Dr. Clerihew's report that privation was suffered, and great stress is laid on the stock of comforts so tardily supplied, although little good is attributed to it.

6. In fact, it was not till the end of February, six weeks after the immigrants landed, when more than one-third of them had died, and when sickness was still raging amongst them, that any effectual measures were taken to improve their condition. A military medical officer was then sent down to assume the superintendence of the station; huts were built, and extra provisions of various kinds were supplied for the comfort of the sick. And the fact is undoubted, that, after these supplies had been received and other remedial measures had been taken, disease and mortality rapidly decreased, and were thereafter not more than might be expected to supervene upon lengthened exposure, privation, and neglect, such as the survivors up to that time had undergone.

7. It is not the part of the Government of India to fix the blame of this occurrence upon any one, even if the information before it were such as to enable it justly and conclusively to do so. This must be left in the hands of the Colonial Government, to whom the Government of India confidently look for aid towards the protection of the natives of India still in the Mauritius, by exposing and noting as it deserves, the careless indifference by which, in whatever quarter originating, these people have so cruelly suffered. His Lordship in Council will merely remark on this head, that no special and formal inquiry seems to have been

been made into the condition and treatment of the immigrants during their stay on Gabriel Island, and especially during the first six weeks of it, and that the Protector of Immigrants, an officer whose special duty it is to watch over the interests of the Indian labourers and protect them from every kind of injury, does not seem to have concerned himself about them till the remnant were allowed to leave their miserable quarantine and proceed to Port Louis.*

8. But it is the imperative duty of the Government of India to take care that natives of India are not allowed to emigrate to any part of Her Majesty's dominions without full security for their just and proper treatment during the whole period of their residence there. The natives of India who leave their homes for Mauritius or any other Colony, do so in implicit reliance upon the faith of the Government of India that they will be so treated, and the Government of India cannot escape from the obligation imposed upon it to take steps to ensure that this shall be the case.

9. It is a principle adopted with the full sanction of Her Majesty's Government, that to Colonies which are opened conditionally to the immigration of Indian labourers under contracts of service or industrial residence for a term of years, such labourers shall not be allowed to proceed in the first instance, till the Government of India is satisfied upon an examination of the colonial regulations framed for the purpose, that they will be duly protected and cared for after their arrival. The same principle demands that whenever circumstances occur which show that confidence in the due protection and care of such labourers, on or after their arrival at the Colony, can no longer be reasonably felt, the further emigration of such labourers should be checked.

10. It is then as bearing specially upon the question as to whether emigration to the Mauritius can now justly be permitted to continue, and not with the view of imputing blame in any particular quarter, that the Governor General in Council feels it necessary to express his decided opinion, that in all human probability the mortality among the emigrants would not have occurred if those ill-fated people had been allowed to disembark at once on the mainland; and, further, that even supposing the necessity of quarantine on either Gabriel or Flat Islands, if proper precautionary measures had been adopted and proper shelter provided for the immigrants on their first landing, no such fatal results would have ensued.

11. It is true that measures are now being taken to prepare huts for the reception of future immigrants who may be required to perform quarantine in Flat or Gabriel Islands until the permanent buildings about to be constructed there are completed; but the Governor General in Council has the strongest reason to believe that these isolated and frequently inaccessible rocks are wholly unfitted for the purpose of a quarantine station, while it is abundantly evident from the debates of the Legislative Council of the Mauritius, as reported in the "Commercial Gazette," that there is, on the part of the community of Mauritius in general, an intense dread of the introduction of cholera into the island by coolies, which leads to the enforcement of quarantine upon very insufficient proof of disease, and with needless harshness, and which does not appear to be tempered by any effective desire on the part of the Colonial Legislature to establish such quarantine arrangements as shall protect the health and lives of the emigrants, or even provide for the safety of the vessels in which they are conveyed.

12. The doubts which the official correspondence and other circumstances raised in the mind of the Governor General in Council as to the fitness of Flat and Gabriel Islands for quarantine, has been confirmed by a perusal of the official report upon the subject by Mr. Wales, the harbour-master of Port Louis, presented to the Legislative Council at its sitting of the 6th of August, and of the Minute of the Governor laid before the same body on the 20th idem. After reading Mr. Wales' report, the Governor General in Council is not surprised to find that his Excellency, the Governor of Mauritius, in addressing the Legislative Council speaks of Flat Island as "of extreme inaccessibility, which, though susceptible of partial improvement, must always make landing and embarking there a service of considerable danger, and altogether impracticable during the prevalence of strong breezes." Yet this very inaccessibility (which is admitted by all) is mentioned by a leading representative member of the Legislative Council as a reason for the selection of the island on account of the little chance which it affords of any infraction of the quarantine, and notwithstanding the Governor's condemnation of the place, it has been finally chosen as the site of a Cholera Lazaretto.

13. The Governor General in Council has also perused in the "Mauritius Commercial Gazette" of the 2d August, a letter, which, though anonymous, bears every appearance of accuracy and sober truth. The writer, who describes himself as having long resided on Flat Island, comes to the conclusion that that locality "is not suitable for a Lazaretto." That his conclusion is just, will scarcely be doubted by any one who trusts this account of his long experience. He says, that during nearly the whole of the winter, the pass (which is described in the official report of the harbour-master above alluded to as a narrow channel between

* The only remark made by the Protector is that "the immigrants landed from Gabriel Island (quarantine) were generally (on the whole) in good condition, and appeared in good spirits."

† Printed in the "Commercial Gazette" of 15th and 22d August.

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between Flat and Gabriel Islands, with reefs on either hand and dangerous coral patches in the channel, but nevertheless the best landing place) is closed; that no communication can be held with the island at that season, and that in summer also it is impossible, whenever there is a strong breeze, the current, which is very strong in the channel and around the island, having caused the loss of many vessels. He mentions the case of a ship arriving with coolies some years ago, and being ordered to disembark them on Flat Island, but being wholly unable to do so. He then states that the island grows nothing but cotton, that trees do not thrive there, that many persons have planted cocoa nut and other trees, but none have succeeded; that the well water is brackish, and on Gabriel Island so salt as to be undrinkable. And he concludes by observing, that no pier or jetty which could be constructed would withstand the violence of the sea, and by citing an instance in which no communication could be had with the mainland for 81 days.

14. The Governor General in Council has also obtained from some of the captains of vessels habitually engaged in the conveyance of Indian emigrants to the Mauritius, at present in Calcutta, their opinion as to the accessibility or otherwise of Flat and Gabriel Islands. These persons, while very careful not to say anything that could reflect blame upon the Colonial Government, are unanimous in stating that it is always dangerous to anchor a ship near the islands, both from their exposed position and from the nature of the ground, which affords little or no hold for an anchor; and that at times, no landing can be effected, and all communication, even by means of steamers, is suspended. So far as an examination of the chart can confirm these concurrent opinions it does so to the fullest extent.

15. It is upon this point that the Government of Mauritius have determined to place the Cholera Lazaretto. His Lordship in Council believes it to be totally unfit for that purpose, and that, as long as it is so used, immigrants to Mauritius will be exposed to risks and sufferings from which no care or watchfulness on the part of the Government of India can protect them. It is manifest that a regulation which refuses shelter to a ship until it has landed its passengers on an island, where landing is difficult and dangerous even in the finest weather, but which is unapproachable commonly for two or three weeks at a time, and has been known to be unapproachable for nearly three months, is a regulation which imperils not only an occasional boat-full of coolies, but whole ships with all their living freight. And it is equally manifest that such an inaccessible spot cannot be a fit place for the humane treatment, after they have landed, of several hundred men, women and children, presumed to be suffering from cholera and its consequences.

16. These are the circumstances under which the Government of India has arrived at the conclusion, that emigration to the Mauritius cannot, with a due regard to the safety of the emigrants, be permitted to continue. The Governor General in Council will not consent to withdraw the prohibition until means are provided by the Mauritius authorities for enabling immigrants to land, under all circumstances, immediately on their arrival in the Colony, and, if they are compelled to keep quarantine, for securing them comfortable and spacious lodging, with proper food, comforts, and medical assistance during the period of their detention. Even if the primary objection should be removed by the establishment of the lazaretto on a more suitable spot than Flat or Gabriel Island, the Government of India will still require to be fully informed as to the rules by which the quarantine is henceforward to be governed at Mauritius, and to be satisfied that these do not bear with peculiar and unnecessary hardship upon Indian immigrants. The local Governments of Bengal, Madras and Bombay have been requested to take proper measures for giving such persons as may have come to the Presidency towns for the purpose of embarking for Mauritius, and are unwilling to emigrate elsewhere, the means of returning to their homes, charging the expense to the emigration fund. Compensation will also have to be given to the owners of ships that may have been chartered to carry native emigrants to the colony.

Fort William, 31 October 1856.

I have, &c.
(signed) Cecil Beadon,
Secretary to the Government of India.

Encl. 2, in No. 1.

Enclosure 2, in No. 1.

The Secretary to the Government of India.

Sir,

Colonial Secretary's Office, 6 January 1856.

I HAVE the honour, by direction of his Excellency the Governor of Mauritius, to acknowledge the receipt of your letters under date the 24th and 31st October last, the first announcing the suspension of emigration from India to Mauritius, and the last explaining the motives which had induced the Right Honourable the Governor General of India in Council to adopt that measure, and stating the conditions on which alone it can be revoked.

2. In.

2. In answering this communication, it will, perhaps, be more convenient to endeavour, first, to exonerate the Government of Mauritius from the very grave complaints that have been made respecting the treatment of the immigrants who arrived by the "Hydree" and the "Futtah Mombarruck" in the month of January last; and afterwards to submit, for the consideration of his Lordship in Council the reasons that can be urged for the withdrawal of the prohibition, keeping the two questions separate and distinct; the reputation of the Executive Government alone being concerned in the one, whilst the most important interests of the Colony are involved in the solution of the other.

3. The first subject noticed is that those immigrants were placed in quarantine, although no case of cholera had actually occurred on the voyage. The reasons by which the Board of Health were influenced in the adoption of this course, and the circumstances which led to it, will be found explained in the further report of the chief medical officer, transmitted herewith, and it would appear that the Board on this occasion only exercised the powers conferred by law upon it for the protection of the public health.

4. It is complained that the immigrants were exposed for six weeks to the inclemency of the monsoon, with no other shelter than tents, and without proper medical attendance. It cannot be denied that two errors (as they subsequently proved) were committed in preparing for the reception and medical treatment of the immigrants subjected to quarantine on Gabriel Island. These were, relying on tents to afford adequate shelter, and the nomination of Dr. Finlay to act as Surgeon Superintendent. But in neither case can indifference or neglect, his Excellency the Governor submits, be justly imputed to the Colonial Government, and for the following reasons.

5. No exception has hitherto been taken, in any quarter, to the use of tents, and the experience of all previous occasions on which immigrants had been disembarked at Flat or Gabriel Islands, had shown that tents were not only sufficient for the service, but that, under the covering which they afforded, the immigrants had rapidly recovered their health.

6. By making similar provision, therefore, on this occasion, the Government had a manifest right to expect that security was taken for the accommodation of the immigrants. Unfortunately, however, unusually inclement weather set in some days subsequently to the disembarkation, and after a time the tents became ill able to resist its violence, the immigrants suffering from exposure, whilst the heavy rains continued, until the huts were erected for their better accommodation.

7. In the selection of the Surgeon Superintendent, Government made the best arrangement at its disposal for providing proper medical assistance. It is true that this gentleman had been only a short time in the Colony, but he produced a regular diploma, and other certificates of professional qualifications to the chief medical officer, which induced this latter to recommend him for the appointment of Government medical officer in the Seychelles dependency. About the same time a surgeon was urgently required for quarantine, and he was employed on that duty, no other practitioner being willing to undertake it. It is likewise to be borne in mind that there were to assist him the three native doctors who came down from Calcutta in charge of the immigrants, one of whom, however, died not long after landing; but another rendered most useful assistance throughout the quarantine. The selection of Dr. Finlay was an unfortunate one. He did not prove equal to the task confided to him, and so soon as this became known to Government he was immediately superseded by the appointment of a military assistant surgeon, whose services on the emergency were placed at the disposal of the civil government.

8. It was impossible to have foreseen this untoward result; on the contrary, the grounds above stated appear to his Excellency, as it is hoped they will to his Lordship in Council, to fully justify the employment of Dr. Finlay on this service.

9. I would here observe, that a permanent superintendent of quarantine has since been appointed, and has within the last few days arrived from England.

10. The Government of India complains of the delay that took place before effectual measures were adopted for the relief of the immigrants.

11. This arose from the stop put to regular communication with the lazaret during the prevalence of the very boisterous weather above alluded to preventing Government from being kept well informed of the real condition of the lazaret; and in none of the few reports made by Dr. Finlay thereupon, was it stated that the shelter afforded to the immigrants had proved insufficient.

12. When the true state of things became partially known the chief medical officer was directed to proceed to the lazaret to satisfy himself on the subject, but after two unsuccessful attempts on 12th and 14th February, the steamer returned to Port Louis, without his having been able to land. Subsequently, that is so soon as the weather admitted of communication, Staff Assistant Surgeon Hazdie was sent down and landed at the lazaret. The result of his inquiries satisfied Government that Dr. Finlay, though kind and compassionate to the sick, was deficient in some qualities essential for the efficient discharge of the responsible duty entrusted to him; and, as before stated, he was superseded.

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13. No avoidable delay occurred in despatching workmen and materials for the erection of huts after Government was made aware that the immigrants stood in need of a better shelter. On the 9th of February the chief medical officer recommended the measure; on the 12th the steamer started with workmen and materials to carry it into execution, but the state of the weather rendered all attempts to approach the lazaret unsuccessful until the 20th, after which the huts were constructed with all practicable despatch.

14. It is hardly necessary to state that the lazaret was fully provisioned throughout the quarantine, and his Excellency knows of no privations, inseparable from quarantine, which the coolies suffered, except those caused by the inclemency of the weather, and the unforeseen shortcomings of the superintendent, previously to the erection of the huts. The Chief Medical Officer was emphatically and repeatedly instructed to take care that medicines and everything else required for the use of the sick should be fully supplied; and it will appear from his further explanations on these points that he acted in the spirit of those instructions. But his Excellency conceives that he erred in not sending to the lazaret a larger supply of extra diet and medical comforts when the outbreak of disease was first announced.

15. In reference to the erroneous supposition, that no inquiry was made into the condition and treatment of the immigrants during their stay on Gabriel Island, I have to state that Staff Assistant Surgeon Hardie was despatched to the lazaret on the 19th of February for this purpose, and that on the 25th a commission of medical officers was appointed to investigate the same subject, who after examining the reports made by the officers in charge of the quarantine, and the information laid before them as to the quantity of provisions, medical comforts, &c., sent to the lazaret, reported "that every necessary measure had already been adopted for the improvement of the health of the immigrants, and that they had no further recommendation to make, than that a small daily allowance of rum be issued to each of them."

16. It was, moreover, expected that the more comprehensive inquiry instituted through the instrumentality of a special committee of the Legislature into the cause of the last outbreak of cholera, would necessarily embrace all proceedings at the lazaret, from whence the disease was supposed to have been introduced. So soon as the Report of this Committee is presented, a copy thereof, with the evidence taken, shall be forwarded for the information of his Lordship in Council.

17. The annexed letter from the Protector of Immigrants will, his Excellency trusts, acquit that officer in the eyes of his Lordship in Council, of the wilful neglect of duty imputed to him; as will be seen from the explanation tendered, that the immigrants were not and could not be placed under his charge until after their admission to pratique, and his Excellency conceives that it is no more than just to Mr. Hugon, to add that he has invariably found him most anxious to discharge his duty honestly and faithfully towards the natives of India residing here, in whose welfare he takes an anxious interest, and by whom he is much confided in and respected.

18. Such are briefly the circumstances under which careless indifference and neglect towards those helpless victims of disease is imputed by the Government of India, to succour and protect whom the Government of Mauritius was bound by every tie of duty, interest and humanity; and for whose sufferings its deepest sympathies were awakened. But his Excellency indulges the hope that the Government of India, better informed, will see fit to withdraw so weighty and severe a censure, and that a more intimate knowledge of the particulars of this deplorable loss of life, will satisfy that Government, that, admitting the arrangements for receiving at one time, so unprecedentedly large a number of immigrants in quarantine (698) to have been incomplete, still, earnest and persevering efforts were made to repair the deficiency. Although from causes beyond its control, the remedial measures resorted to by the Colonial Government were unhappily, for a time retarded.

19. I now turn to the second division of the contents of your letter, namely, the conditions on which the Government of India will consent to withdraw the prohibition to emigration, which it has declared, and to the security proposed to be exacted for the due protection and care of the immigrants on and after their arrival in this Colony.

20. Upon this question, of such paramount and vital importance to the industrial prosperity of this valuable possession of the Crown, it has been his Excellency's duty to consult the Colonial Legislature, and I beg leave, by his Excellency's directions, to annex, for the favourable consideration of the Right Honourable the Governor General of India in Council, a Report which has been adopted by that body on the subject. The bearings of the question are so fully, and, as his Excellency thinks, so fairly laid down in this report, that it only remains for his Excellency to offer, on two or three mooted points, a few further observations.

21. First, as to his Excellency's opinion of the inaccessibility of Flat Island, expressed in his Minute of the 20th of August 1855, and referred to in your letter. His Excellency had not then before him the report made, after careful examination of the localities, by a Board of highly competent officers, appointed to ascertain how far the anchorage and landing-places at Flat Island could be improved, and which has greatly modified the opinion his Excellency was then led to entertain, founded partly on the difficulties experienced in communicating

municating with Gabriel Island during the quarantine raised some time before, and partly from the harbour-master's report to which you also advert. The report of that Board, together with a letter from the master of Her Majesty's ship "Castor," relating thereto, and a further report from the harbour-master, are now transmitted for the information of the Government of India. How far the works now in progress and others projected will remove the only formidable objections to Flat Island, can be fully tested by experience alone. But it cannot be questioned that these works are well calculated to overcome, in a great degree, the existing difficulties, and to render the site much more accessible than it now is.

22. In all other respects, Flat Island may be considered well adapted to the requirements of a lazaret. His Excellency has himself visited the island, and fully concurs in this opinion. The accompanying map, with a report on its capabilities prepared by the Government surveyor, will give the Government of India more correct and accurate information on this subject, than that derived from the anonymous writer quoted in your letter, or from masters of vessels, who may be rather disposed to exaggerate than to underrate whatever risk or danger may exist, and who would naturally prefer running at once for the anchorage at Port Louis, to incurring the trouble and detention of landing coolies at any intermediate place.

23. Indian immigrants have, on several occasions subsequent to 1849, undergone quarantine on Flat Island, and no objection to the site has heretofore been offered by the Government of India. The site has, moreover, been approved by Her Majesty's Government for a permanent lazaret, and the Colonial Government has incurred considerable expense and made preparations for the construction of suitable and substantial buildings (plans of which are annexed, as well as of those projected at Cannonier's Point). These facts may perhaps exercise no influence on the decision of the Government of India; but it is hoped they may tend to invalidate the condemnation passed on the Government of Mauritius for the selection of this spot as a cholera lazaret.

24. My letter of the 12th November last to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, will have apprised you of the extent and quality of the temporary accommodation now ready for the reception of immigrants on Flat Island and Gabriel Island. And the contractor has engaged to complete the buildings at Cannonier's Point, sufficient for 600 persons, by the 1st July next. It is likewise expected that the permanent buildings on Flat Island projected for occupation by immigrants, and the works for facilitating them, will be finished in about six months.

25. In a community where the conviction is all but unanimous that cholera and other epidemic diseases are introduced from abroad, and cannot be generated by local causes, strict and rigorous quarantine laws are resorted to as the surest safeguard against their introduction. From their provisions other persons are no more exempted than Indian immigrants; the latter only from their numbers, and the fact that these diseases so often break out amongst them, are more frequently subjected to their operation. These laws may appear unnecessarily stringent to those impressed with opposite convictions; but whether or not they be harsh or unnecessary, no exclusiveness or peculiarity can be justly imputed, as all classes and races are equally liable to their operation.

26. The main objections entertained to the existing regulations appear directed against "quarantine under sail," and prohibition to anchor immediately on arrival. The former has occasionally been resorted to, principally as a "quarantine of observation," when the sanitary state of the vessel appeared to the Board of Health not to require immediate recourse to a more protracted quarantine at the lazaret; but, in some instances, from other causes. If the proposal of the Legislative Council (to which I shall hereafter advert) be accepted by the Government of India, both the practices objected to will necessarily be discontinued.

27. There has not been time since the receipt of your communication to revise the laws of quarantine; but, in accordance with the desire expressed by his Lordship in Council, copies of the regulations by which it is intended that quarantine shall be governed in future shall be transmitted to you by the first opportunity.

28. The Council proposes that the Cholera Lazaret at Flat Island should be maintained; but that, in the possible event of inability, from very tempestuous weather, to immediately land the coolies there, the ships should proceed to the roadstead of Port Louis, there to remain until a landing could be effected at the lazaret; and they also propose that an officer should be selected by the Right Honourable the Governor General, if deemed necessary, and sent to Mauritius at the charge of the Immigration Fund, under whose "surveillance" this plan might be carried out, and by which an additional guarantee would be given for its conditions being faithfully and strictly fulfilled.

29. His Excellency respectfully but earnestly recommends the acceptance of this proposal. He trusts that the Right Honourable the Governor General of India in Council may share his belief that the measures contemplated will secure due protection to the natives of India, whilst they will at the same time mitigate the lively apprehensions of the colonists by guaranteeing to their convictions greater security against future inroads of this much dreaded and fatal disease.

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30. The condition of the natives of India now residing in Mauritius is likewise referred to. On this interesting and important point, his Lordship in Council will be gratified to learn that his Excellency can report very satisfactorily.

31. A reference to the Immigration Ordinances and Regulations passed by the Government of Mauritius will at once demonstrate the scrupulous care taken to secure to the coolies just and proper treatment from their employers, and the freest exercise of all civil rights, on the termination of their industrial residence, should they resolve to remain longer in the colony. The coolies' security from oppression and wrong has been the constant aim of this Government, and its solicitude has not been thrown away. The experience of five years' administration has enabled his Excellency to appreciate the true position occupied by Indian immigrants, and he has no hesitation in declaring that it may challenge a comparison with that of the labouring classes in any other part of the British possessions. The climate is congenial; the price of labour always remunerative; liberal measures are in progress for the education of the children of immigrants; perfect liberty of religious faith is allowed; hospitals and asylums are open for the sick, and all who are incapacitated from work are, if they desire it, provided with the means of returning to their native homes. It may in all truth be said, that this fertile stream of immigration enriches alike labourers and employers; and all who take an interest in the welfare and prosperity of either must greatly lament its diversion, even for a season.

32. The Government of India has, as is observed, an unquestionable right to claim from the Government of Mauritius the most cordial co-operation in its efforts to protect the natives of India; and it may confidently rely on the loyalty and good faith with which this will be accorded.

33. Enough, his Excellency thinks, has been advanced to show that the Government of Mauritius is not open to reproach on this head. But if it should appear to the Right Honourable the Governor General that additional securities can be taken for the attainment of this object, his Excellency the Governor will be prepared to give, to any further measures that may be suggested, respectful and serious consideration.

34. In conclusion, I am requested to assure the Right Honourable the Governor General of India in Council, that it has been the desire of his Excellency the Governor to give the fullest and frankest explanations on the several topics treated of in your communication; and his Excellency trusts it may be found that these, together with the information contained in the report of the Legislative Council, and in the other documents annexed hereto, have embraced all the material points of the question under review.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. Dowland,*
Acting Colonial Secretary.

P.S.—It was intended that an officer of this Government should have been the bearer of this Despatch, but whose departure has been deferred until he could carry with him the revised Quarantine Regulations. He will, however, proceed to Calcutta by the next convenient opportunity, and will be able to afford any further explanation respecting the proceedings and intentions of this Government upon any points on which more explicit information may be required.

Encl. 3, in No. 1.

Enclosure 3, in No. 1.

To the Right Honourable the Governor General of India in Council, &c. &c. &c.

May it please your Lordship,

Mauritius, 26 December 1856.

WE, the undersigned, are commissioned by the Members of the Chambers of Agriculture and Commerce of Mauritius, respectfully to approach your Lordship on the subject of a Proclamation by the Government of India of 24th October 1856, suspending the emigration of natives of India to this Colony, and humbly to solicit your reconsideration of that measure, and of the reasons by which it appears to have been recommended to your Lordship's adoption.

We are aware that in thus venturing to address ourselves to your Lordship we are taking an unusual course, but we rely on your Lordship's justice and humanity for a favourable and patient hearing of our prayer on a subject of such vital importance to us, and on which a resolution, which, if maintained, will inflict certain ruin on hundreds of innocent families here, and also on many English subjects resident at home, has been taken without our having received any warning or having had the opportunity of submitting to your fair and impartial consideration one word of deprecation.

We are informed that "the want of proper measures for the protection of emigrants immediately on their arrival in this colony," set forth in the proclamation, refers to the absence of sufficient accommodation for such of them as may arrive in vessels with disease on board; and that the measure has been more immediately caused by reports of the mortality which occurred amongst those placed in quarantine in January last, and which is alleged to have been greatly aggravated by the then insufficient preparations.

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The inhabitants of Mauritius will not deny that had they shown themselves wanting in humanity in the manner charged upon them, the measure taken by your Lordship, however severe, might have worn the appearance of justice, and they would have had less reason for remonstrance, or for hoping to enlist your Lordship's sympathies in their favour.

But the facts, so far as they are concerned, are far otherwise, and could they hope that your Lordship's attention could be directed for a moment to a review of what took place here, and to the conduct which they themselves observed and urged on all, as far as their means or influence extended, they would feel entire confidence in your Lordship acquitting them of any want of care, anxiety, and readiness to make every sacrifice in their power to succour and protect the emigrants. The local press, the debates in the Legislative Council, addresses to the Government, and the votes submitted to and now sanctioned by Her Majesty's Government, abundantly show that the inhabitants of Mauritius, from the highest to the lowest, were cheerfully ready to make every effort and incur every outlay for the reception and care of such emigrants as might unfortunately arrive with sickness amongst them. And if it be borne in mind that when, after an interval of 35 years, cholera broke out amongst us in 1854, the Acting Governor, who was himself stricken with the disease, remained but a short time in office, giving the reins to a temporary successor; that our Governor had returned from Europe but a short time before the disease was again brought to our shores, it will cause less surprise and blame that the preparations to meet the visitation were not so complete as they now are.

Uncertainties as to the best means of ensuring the requisite conditions of quarantine, combining assurance against dangerous communication with due accommodation, shelter, and attendance, existed. The necessary references of all the money votes and other steps to be taken, to Her Majesty's Government, had occasioned delays; but none more deeply than your memorialists regretted these delays, none more urgently called on the authorities to lose no time, and to spare no sacrifice and exertion, amply to provide for the comfort of such emigrants as might arrive with disease amongst them. Unhappily, from a series of circumstances which your memorialists could not control, but which are not likely to occur in combination again, the preparations projected had not been completed when the ships "Futtah Mumbarrack" and "Hyderee," arrived off our harbour with much and various sickness on board; cholera, amongst other dangerous and infectious maladies. Each ship had lost 22 lives during the voyage; the ship's doctor afterwards avowed that the people came on board in a very sickly condition; the English medical man sent to the quarantine ground reported that a third of the passengers were already struck with disease. It could hardly have been expected, therefore, that amongst persons already so affected and predisposed, in whatever circumstances or conditions they might have been placed, sickness would not continue its fatal course; but deplorable as was the loss of life amongst these passengers, a larger proportion of loss amongst English troops has occurred, from the prevalence of epidemic disease in India and various parts of the world, in spite of every precautionary and remedial measure.

It has been asserted that these passengers fell victims to want of food and water, the truth of which your Lordship will be able to judge of by referring to an investigation made here in virtue of an Ordinance obtained from the local Government, and sanctioned by Her Majesty, on the recommendation of his Excellency the Governor, expressly conferring power to examine witnesses upon oath, and get at the truth.

Deploring, as we do, the suffering that occurred, and of which, and of its causes, exaggerated and perverted statements were made, to serve a purpose, we would beg now respectfully to assure your Lordship, that great progress has been made in preparing ample accommodation for such emigrants as may be placed in quarantine, not, as has been asserted, on a naked and an unhealthy rock, but on an island the salubrity of which is well known, where there is a plentiful and never-failing supply of fresh water, and where henceforward everything needful will exist in abundance. Cottages have been already built, to receive, in comfort, more than 800 people, a larger number than has ever been, or is likely to be, in quarantine at one time. Her Majesty, on application from the Colony, has been pleased to appoint an English physician to reside upon the spot as superintendent. The buildings and accommodations will be further extended, if necessary; those only which have in view, not the shelter and comfort of the immigrants, but the means of lodging the guard, to prevent communication, are incomplete.

Landing places, to make the island easily accessible at all times, after a careful re-examination by the harbour-master, assisted by the new head of the Engineer department, Captain Mann, of the Royal Engineers, and the master of Her Majesty's ship "Castor," have been planned, and can be completed in three months; and telegraph stations have been already established, by means of which communication from the quarantine ground to the head of the Government is constant and instantaneous.

We observe that an anonymous letter, published here, stating that any communication with Flat Island has been impossible for a period of eighty days at a time, had been brought to your Lordship's notice, and not unnaturally had arrested your Lordship's attention. The exaggerations of this letter, and the motives for it, were so well understood here, that at the time no one attached any importance to it, nor thought it worth while to contradict it. The truth is, that it has never happened that a landing could not be safely effected for a longer period than eight days together, and continuance, even for so long, of such weather as to make landing imprudent, has been very rare. In fact, the landing, even without the works

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The best proof of this assertion is the fact, that though Flat Island has been used as a quarantine station for more than five years, and many emigrants have been placed there at different seasons of the year, not a single accident has occurred to the sick or the healthy, at the landing or re-embarkation.

That Her Majesty's Government, the Military authorities at home, and the General commanding here, have authorised detachments of Her Majesty's troops to be landed and stationed on the island, to serve as a quarantine guard, may be taken to prove that Flat Island presents the character we have ascribed to it, and induces the hope that the erroneous ideas of the locality which have been conveyed to your Lordship's mind may be removed.

In addition to the arrangements on Flat Island, separate accommodation and means of treatment are being provided on the mainland for emigrants who may be attacked by small-pox, or other contagious diseases of a similar nature, so as to prevent the possible accumulation of a large number of sick on the same spot. For the necessary works a sum of 55,000*l.* has been voted by the local Council, after receiving the authorisation of the Secretary of State; and it is certain, that if science and humanity prescribe more to render the arrangements satisfactory to the Indian and Imperial Governments, more will be supplied.

For the inhabitants of Mauritius will be found urgent to have every means employed which can lessen the mortality or mitigate the sufferings of a state of confinement, to which, in Europe, and other English ports as well as this, persons arriving with dangerous and communicable diseases are unfortunately liable. They look upon the isolation of such passengers as a necessary precaution, not lightly to be dispensed with. It is believed here that such means should be taken as, under Providence, seem calculated at once to provide for the care and treatment of emigrants arriving in ships with sickness on board, and to guard against the contagion spreading. It was felt by the people here that it was more humane to subject the passengers of one or more ships to the inconveniences of quarantine in a healthy spot, and with every proper appliance and comfort, or even to detain them for some days longer on board a ship, which by the regulations must be amply provisioned, and offer them ample room, accommodation, and medical attendance, than to risk the re-introduction here of a disease which had swept off, not hundreds, but thousands in the space of a few weeks.

And though the present preparations preclude the chance of such detention again, we venture to submit to your Lordship that at the same time that emigration is suspended to Mauritius, it is continued to the West Indies; and that in case of cholera or other disease breaking out in ships for that destination, the length of the voyage necessarily exposes the emigrants to a longer detention than has ever occurred here, whether the ship has been directed to land her passengers at once in quarantine, or to cruise for a short period.

We need not remind your Lordship that from Mauritius emanated suggestions which have been adopted by the authorities in India apparently with the best effect, calling for greater care and selection at the embarkation of emigrants, greater heed to the quality and description of the food supplied to them, a better choice of medical attendants during the voyage, and the enforcement on the owners and captains of ships of more attention to cleanliness, air, and exercise, and the inhabitants of Mauritius will grudge no necessary additional expense to insure still more strict compliance with these important requisites.

Your memorialists touch on these considerations because they observe in the Indian press, and have reason to believe, that representations have been made upon them to your Lordship in a tone of hostility to the inhabitants of Mauritius and to its interests.

In some quarters, their opinion on the at least debated question of the contagion of cholera, seems to be held as putting them out of the pale of humanity, and to make them deserving of every misfortune that can be brought upon them; and a virulent, and to them an inexplicable satisfaction, is expressed at the suspension of emigration, as the proper punishment for their presumed wilful ignorance and inhumanity.

Whether cholera be communicable by human intercourse, as seems now to be the opinion of the most recent authorities in Europe, or not, the inhabitants of Mauritius have thought that were it only doubtful, common sense and humanity requires the adoption of quarantine as the best human means to preserve themselves, their families, and dependents, and 130,000 natives of India now settled on their soil, from danger. Their conviction is conscientious and sincere, and based on what passed under their own eyes. They all remarked that during 1854 and 1856 there was no instance of the appearance of the disease on spots previously healthy, without communication being traced to infected places, and they could not shut their eyes to the striking fact that the Island of Bourbon, so near to Mauritius that the summits of its mountains can be seen from our shores, which may fairly be considered as subject to the same atmospheric influences, and which has the same mixed population of Europeans, Africans, and Indians, remained entirely free from cholera during the months it was raging here. But during that time the strictest quarantine was enforced around the French Island, and all communication with the Mauritius was stopped.

It is moreover undeniable, that every outbreak of cholera here has been preceded by the arrival of one or more vessels with the disease on board.

We will not presume further in this address to your Lordship, to discuss the question of contagion; we believe we have said enough to disculpate ourselves from the charge of
perverse

perverse and wilful ignorance, which at any rate we should only share with some of the most distinguished physicians of the day, and with more than one of the medical staff of Her Majesty's army, who, after familiarity with cholera in India, had occasion to study and report upon its course here also. But, however well-founded our own opinion appears to us to be, we do not cherish it with fanaticism, nor do we seek to injure or vilify those who may not share it.

Your memorialists are fully assured that the sentiments to which they have alluded cannot have had any weight with your Lordship in Council, but the charge of inhumanity to the natives of India, if believed in by your Lordship, may have such permanent and grievous consequences to this dependency of the Crown, as to enforce from us the most emphatic denial.

We do not know what proofs to select against such an accusation.

For 20 years, Indians in great numbers have annually sought our shores; many have returned to India with improved habits, increased strength, more robust morally and physically, and with, for them, considerable wealth. They have encouraged their friends and relatives to come here in pursuit of the same advantages. Many, after a short residence at home, have returned to settle permanently here; and in all this time we defy any proof of inhumanity or want of care to be brought forward against the colonists in whose service they have been.

That there do occur here, as in other communities, particular instances of neglect or hardship, is only to say that human nature is imperfect here, as elsewhere; but that any labouring population in the world is more protected by the laws and the authorities, or more generally well-treated and prosperous, would be an assertion entirely at variance with facts.

Much unfounded distrust and suspicion against the Mauritius planters did exist after the slave emancipation; but repeated inquiries, the statements of travellers and dispassionate observers, of officers of Her Majesty's Army and Navy, of distinguished members of the Honourable Company's civil and military service, the declaration of our late Governor, Sir George Anderson, and of our present Governor, both intimately acquainted with the state of the Indian population at home, form a body of testimony as to the well-being of the labourers here which we may boldly refer to as outweighing any contrary assertions.

But such testimony, by all that we have read in books of travels, or have gathered from the evidence before Committees of Parliament and from official reports in India, we have been constantly left with the conviction that the Indian here is at least in as prosperous and happy a state as at home. If we might trust to the representations of the Indian press, we might even believe that in every respect, moral and physical, the condition of the Indian labourer here contrasts most favourably with that of the ryot in India.

We do not know how Europeans in India treat their native dependants in such circumstances, but it is a fact undeniable that here, notwithstanding our opinions as to contagion, the Indian labourers, during the recent visitation of cholera, were watched over by their masters, who gave them their constant personal attendance, and that many passed nights by the bed-sides of their sick labourers, applied the remedies, and chafed their limbs with their own hands.

It is with shame and reluctance that we feel compelled to defend ourselves before your Lordship by such statements. Independently of the common feelings of humanity, which their belief in the contagion of cholera seems to have been held a sufficient ground for denying to the inhabitants of Mauritius, it cannot but occur to your Lordship that their own interest must present some guarantee for the fair treatment of the labourers, on a continued recruiting of whom their all depends.

But if, unfortunately, prejudiced and unfounded statements have misled your Lordship on this subject, they humbly invite the fullest inquiry, confident that such an investigation by any competent and impartial persons whom you might appoint would dispel all doubt from your Lordship's mind, and fully confirm the assertions which they are under the necessity of making in their own favour.

Having thus endeavoured to place the inhabitants of Mauritius in a true light before your Lordship, as regards their feelings towards and treatment of their Indian labourers, your memorialists now beg succinctly to state the consequences which a continued suspension of emigration will inflict on the Colony.

It is, doubtless, unnecessary to inform your Lordship that its sole produce is sugar, and that produce is entirely raised by emigrant Indian labourers.

The emigration was at first entirely conducted by private individuals. It was put a stop to in 1839, in consequence of certain abuses alleged to be committed in India. In 1842, under regulations made by the Imperial and Indian Governments jointly, it recommenced, and has continued uninterruptedly till now, to the great advantage of the emigrants themselves as well as of this Colony, and of the trade both of England and India, as will partly appear from the figures which we shall have to state below.

The inhabitants of Mauritius could not but place reliance on the often declared disposition of all parties, and every Ministry in England, to aid her sugar colonies in their competition with the slave labour of foreign countries; and the respective Governments of England, India and Mauritius, having, after due deliberation, settled the details of emigration, and

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officers having been appointed duly to carry out the regulations, they felt perfect confidence in an uninterrupted supply of labour, and that no measure so fatal to them could again be resolved on and carried into execution without warning.

Under this conviction, and in spite of severe trials and losses, the colonists displayed energy and perseverance to surmount the difficulties brought upon them by the changes of commercial policy. Encouraged by the repeated assurances of successive Secretaries of State, that so long as the natives of India should be willing to come here and labour, there should be no artificial hindrance of emigration, nor limit to it, but the will of the people themselves and the means of the Colony to bring, employ and pay them, they strained every effort, and obtained new capital; improved and increased the machinery necessary to their industry, at the same time that they bettered and extended their cultivation. In this industry their whole fortunes, and a large amount of English capital, has been, and is employed, and this Colony might be said, at the very moment of this unexpected blow from your Lordship's hand, to be triumphantly solving the questions of free labour and free trade.

Your Lordship will see the magnitude of the interests involved when we state that our production of sugar; which was in 1843 only 30,000 tons, has been raised to 120,000 tons, almost a third part of the whole consumption of Great Britain.

On this production, which was still on the increase, depends a large and increasing trade with England, and also with India; importing annually from the latter country produce to the value of nearly half a million sterling, 800,000 bags of grain alone; and employing 70,000 tons of shipping.

If unfortunately your Lordship in Council should be induced to continue the suspension of emigration, not only will this prosperous progress be arrested, but ruin, rapid and universal, will fall on every interest in this Colony. Every inhabitant, merchant, or planter, and their families and dependents, and ultimately the Indians settled here themselves must suffer, and English capitalists will again have to lament not having lent their money to develop the resources of a foreign rather than a British Colony.

To cultivate the soil on terms which will permit the owner to live and do honour to his engagements towards others, it is beyond doubt that a certain number of emigrants are required to be introduced annually, to supply the place of those who return home with their savings, and of the still larger number who, as soon as they have saved a small capital, or find a more tempting occupation, quit agricultural labour. Already the bare announcement of the suspension of emigration is increasing the rate of wages to a point which will speedily make it doubtful whether it be wise to put fresh plants into the ground; and this rise in wages will, at first, at least, accelerate the rate at which labourers will retire on their savings, and the number of available hands be diminished.

The consequences of a prolongation of this state of things cannot be either distant or doubtful; the crop of sugar, on which all the engagements and revenue, whether of the Government or of individuals, exclusively depend, will be made at a loss, and rapidly diminish.

It is not too much, therefore, to say that a continuation of the suspension for six months may inflict on this Government and individuals pecuniary losses which it may require years to repair; and that its perpetuation will inevitably degrade this Colony from its pre-eminence as a self-supporting dependency of the Crown, and entail irreparable ruin on the inhabitants for no fault of their own, without any authentic inquiry having been made, and without their having had the privilege of being heard in their own behalf.

Although these considerations might seem to be out of your Lordship's province as charged with the government of another portion of Her Majesty's dominions, yet we appeal to your Lordship to look upon Mauritius as an integral part of the same empire, and entitled to the aid and sympathy of all who bear trust under, and owe allegiance to our gracious Queen.

The trade of this island is, as we have shown, important not only to England, but to the empire over which you preside, and depends entirely on its production of sugar.

We will not dwell at length on the effect on the people of England of the serious diminution in the production of that essential article with the present enhanced price and limited supply at home, nor on the cutting off of the considerable outlet for Indian produce, and employment of Indian shipping.

But there is another side of the question to which we respectfully request to be permitted briefly to refer; that is, to the effects of the suspension of emigration on many of the natives of India themselves.

Not to mention the hardship on such Indians as have gone back to their country to fetch their friends and relations to share in their prosperity here, and many of whom have left a portion of their earnings and their wives and children to await their return, we have reason to believe that the number of natives desirous to come here, with the prospect of bettering their situation, has not diminished.

In a recent number of a Calcutta newspaper we read, "If the suffering of the poor in India springs from over-population, it is possible to create a system of internal emigration to our own waste lands, greatly to the benefit of the revenue."

We

We venture respectfully to submit to your Lordship in Council that the existence of such a doubt would appear to justify our expecting your Lordship to be the more inclined to listen to our petition, and to permit such natives as may be desirous of seeking comfort and employment elsewhere than in their native villages, to follow their inclinations, and avail themselves of the advantages open to them here.

The suspension of emigration to Mauritius must tend to force the people either to the less salubrious climate of the West Indies, in spite of the risks of the longer voyage, or to the French island of Bourbon. It is well known that many natives of the British territories have been, and probably will be introduced, through Pondichery, into that island, where at least they are not better treated than here, and where quarantine is most sensitively and strictly enforced, and where no quarantine, except at anchor or under sail, is possible.

We are assured that your Lordship would sympathise with the feelings of British colonists, contrasting their own ruin with the full career of prosperity of a foreign, though friendly colony; a contrast which must be the more poignant from the fact, that this prosperity should in part depend on the continued flow of labour from sources closed to themselves, and to which they might appear to be entitled to the freest access.

We feel that we have intruded at great length on your Lordship's attention; but to endeavour to give your Lordship a more correct and favourable impression of what has been and is doing for the reception of the natives of India here, is our only resource. The only safety of the weak is to appeal to the justice of the strong; the moral responsibility of a decision will lie with your Lordship; and we cannot but believe that when the truth has been made known to you, your Lordship in Council will absolve us of the charges laid against us, and that your sympathy and equity will avert from us the calamities which seem so undeservedly and unexpectedly to threaten us.

In conclusion, we trust that we have proved to your Lordship,—

That the occurrences at Gabriel Island in January last, whatever may have been the want of proper measures and foresight on the part of some of the Government servants, cannot be imputed to, nor justly visited upon, the inhabitants of Mauritius.

That as soon as they were known to them, they urged on the authorities to hasten their exertion to give aid and relief.

That they have impatiently urged the perfecting of a proper lazaretto, accessible at all times, and fitted to receive in comfort, and with every appliance, a larger number of inmates than have ever been at one time in quarantine.

That Flat Island is perfectly suited in itself for a quarantine station, and can and will be made as easily and safely accessible, at all times, by the works now in hand as the mainland.

That Her Majesty has nominated a competent medical superintendent to reside there.

That the consequences of the prolonged suspension of emigration will be great hardship to many natives of India, and certain ruin to an unoffending British Colony.

But if any doubt remains in your Lordship's mind as to the truth of these statements, the colonists invite your Lordship to commission any competent and impartial inquirer to verify them, and to ascertain that measures to your Lordship's satisfaction are taken here to enable immigrants to land immediately on their arrival, and, if they are compelled to keep quarantine, for securing them comfortable and spacious lodging, with proper food, comforts, and medical assistance, during the period of their detention.

For all these reasons your Lordship is humbly, but urgently, entreated to take this petition into your prompt and favourable consideration; to be pleased to allow emigration to Mauritius immediately to recommence, and to direct the agents at the different ports in India to resume the transmission of emigrants as before.

And we will ever pray,

(signed)

C. W. Wiehe, President, Chamber
of Agriculture.

R. Stein, President, Chamber of
Commerce.

J. S. Fraser.

Ulcoq.

E. Hart.

Rougé.

P. A. Wiehe.

Fropier.

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— No. 2. —

No. 2.

(No. 3.)

Governor
Higginson to
Right Hon. H.
Labouchere, M.P.
14 January 1857.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Higginson* to the Right Honourable
H. Labouchere, M.P.

Mauritius, 14 January 1857.

(Received, 20 March 1857.)

Sir,

(Answered, No. 310, 18 April 1857, page 270.)

I BEG leave to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch, No. 195, of the 6th October, relating to the unusual mortality that occurred amongst the Indian immigrants who arrived here in the "Hyderee" and "Futteh Mombarrack," whilst subject to quarantine on Gabriel Island.

2. It would appear from this communication that my report of this lamentable event has not explained in sufficient detail the proceedings adopted by the local Government, and that, in consequence, it has been exposed to the imputation of not having taken more active and energetic measures to meet the emergency, which further information as to all the circumstances of the case will, I hope, remove. I regret that these details were not before furnished, but it did not occur to me that they would be required.

3. The points to which my attention is specially called are, the non-detention of the ships that brought the emigrants for the purpose of affording them shelter; the delay in despatching timber for the construction of huts when it became known that the tents had proved inadequate, and in sending extra articles of food for the relief of the sick; the insufficiency of the medical assistance supplied; and the character of the supervision exercised by the chief medical officer over the quarantine service.

4. On the first point it is to be observed, that the very inclement weather did not set in for several days after the immigrants had been disembarked, and there was therefore no reason to anticipate that such shelter as the ships could afford would have been required. Subsequently, however, the question of sending down ships to remove from the lazaret those who were able to embark was considered, not for better shelter, which was at this time supplied, but in the hope that the removal might have checked the progress of disease, and mitigated its severity. But the medical authorities, entertaining doubts as to the expediency of the plan, it was not adopted.

5. In regard to the other points referred to, the letter from this Government to that of India, copy whereof was transmitted to you with my Despatch, No. 1, of 12th January 1857, contains the plainest explanation that it is in my power to give, and which it does not seem necessary for me to recapitulate here; but for more easy reference, I extract the paragraphs of that communication bearing more directly on the topics in question.

Enclosure 1.

Enclosure 2.

6. Having communicated your Despatch under acknowledgment to the chief medical officer, I annex a copy of a further report which he has made. From this, it will be remarked, that the supply of articles of extra diet for the sick commenced a month sooner than was inferred from his previous report, and that his reason for not earlier recommending the erection of huts was from an apprehension of danger to the public health, from the more frequent intercourse with the lazaret thereby necessitated.

7. The meagreness and irregularity of Dr. Fanlay's reports, and the impossibility of maintaining a regular communication with the "lazaret," formed serious impediments to prompter action, and more vigilant supervision of what was going on there, and materially retarded the remedial measures, which it was no less the imperative duty than the earnest desire of all concerned to see carried into execution.

8. It is satisfactory to me to learn that the provision made, in the first instance, for the accommodation of the immigrants, does not, in your opinion, lay

lay the Colonial Government open to reproach ; but it is not the less a subject of deep regret that, owing to circumstances beyond its control, this provision, after a time, proved insufficient, subjecting many who were struggling with severe and painful sickness to the consequences of exposure, which, in less inclement weather, would have been avoided.

9. I assure you, sir, that during a long career of public service (32 years), I can recall no incident which has caused me more anxiety and pain than the deplorable mortality amongst those ill-fated immigrants, elsewhere not unexampled, it is true, but still so great as to warrant the apprehension that it may have been aggravated by the unfavourable conditions of the position in which they were at first placed ; and although I can most assuredly reproach myself with neither indifference or dereliction of duty, I am not the less sensible of the share of responsibility attaching to the head of the Government for the proper administration of quarantine, which, it may be observed, is in this colony greatly enhanced by the extreme difficulty of reconciling with the ultra contagionist doctrines that prevail the adoption of measures involving any communication with the lazarets, however carefully guarded, and which, on the occurrence of so frightful and unlooked-for an outbreak of disease as that on Gabriel Island, became indispensable to the succour and relief of those who were so grievously afflicted.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. M. Higginson.*

Enclosure 1, in No. 2.

Encl. 1, in No. 2.

EXTRACT from Acting Colonial Secretary's Letter, dated 5 January 1857, to the Secretary to the Government of India.

7. In the selection of the surgeon superintendent, Government made the best arrangement, at its disposal, for providing proper medical assistance. It is true that this gentleman had been only a short time in the Colony ; but he produced a regular diploma and other certificates of professional qualifications to the chief medical officer, which induced this latter to recommend him for the appointment of Government medical officer in the Seychelles dependency. About the same time, a surgeon was urgently required for quarantine, and he was employed on that duty, no other practitioner being willing to undertake it. It is likewise to be borne in mind that there were to assist him, the three native doctors, who came down from Calcutta in charge of the immigrants, one of whom, however, died not long after landing ; but another rendered most useful assistance throughout the quarantine. The selection of Dr. Finlay was an unfortunate one ; he did not prove equal to the task confided to him, and so soon as this became known to Government, he was immediately superseded by the appointment of a military assistant surgeon, whose services in the emergency were placed at the disposal of the Civil Government.

8. It was impossible to have foreseen this untoward result ; on the contrary, the grounds above stated appear to his Excellency, as it is hoped they will to his Lordship in Council, to fully justify the employment of Dr. Finlay on this service.

9. I would here observe that a permanent superintendent of quarantine has since been appointed, and has, within the last few days, arrived from England.

10. The Government of India complains of the delay that took place before effectual measures were adopted for the relief of the immigrants.

11. This arose from the stop put to regular communication with the lazaret during the prevalence of the very boisterous weather, above alluded to, preventing Government from being kept well informed of the real condition of the lazaret, and in none of the few reports made by Dr. Finlay thereupon, was it stated that the shelter afforded to the immigrants had proved insufficient.

12. When the true state of things became partially known, the chief medical officer was directed to proceed to the lazaret to satisfy himself on the subject ; but after two unsuccessful attempts, on 12th and 14th February, the steamer returned to Port Louis, without his having been able to land ; subsequently, that is, so soon as the weather admitted of communication, staff assistant surgeon Hardie was sent down, and landed on the lazaret. The result of his inquiries satisfied Government that Dr. Finlay, though kind and compassionate to the sick, was deficient in some qualities essential for the efficient discharge of the responsible duty entrusted to him ; and, as before stated, he was superseded.

13. No avoidable delay occurred in dispatching workmen and materials for the erection of huts, after Government was made aware that the immigrants stood in need of a better shelter. On the 9th February, the chief medical officer recommended the measure ; on the 12th, the

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steamer started with workmen and materials, to carry it into execution; but the state of the weather rendered all attempts to approach the lazaret unsuccessful, until the 20th, after which the huts were constructed, with all practicable dispatch.

14. It is hardly necessary to state that the lazaret was fully provisioned throughout the quarantine; and his Excellency knows of no privations, inseparable from quarantine, which the coolies suffered, except those caused by the inclemency of the weather, and the unforeseen shortcomings of the superintendent, previously to the erection of the huts. The chief medical officer was emphatically and repeatedly instructed to take care that medicines and everything else required for the use of the sick, should be fully supplied; and it will appear from his further explanations on these points, that he acted in the spirit of those instructions. But his Excellency conceives that he erred in not sending to the lazaret a larger supply of extra diet, and medical comforts, when the outbreak of disease was first announced.

Encl. 2, in No. 2.

Enclosure 2, in No. 2.

Civil Medical Department,
6 January 1857.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following observations on the Despatch of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, No. 195, dated 6th of October 1856.

2. It is stated in the Despatch, that, "as the weather was peculiarly inclement, it is to be regretted that the ships which brought the immigrants were permitted to leave the island, since their shelter might apparently have been of great value in the absence of any letter."

3. Although it does not belong to me to answer this remark, I beg to observe that the weather was fine when the immigrants landed, and continued to be so for nearly a fortnight afterwards, that is, until the 1st of February, the whole of January having been exceedingly dry.

4. It is next stated in the Despatch, that "it is also to be regretted that the timber for constructing huts was not sent to the island till the end of February.

5. My letter to the Government recommending the erection of these huts was dated the 9th of February, in consequence of a report then received from Mr. Finlay, announcing the general prevalence of disease. These huts were not applied for sooner, for the obvious reason that the island was in quarantine, and that the amount of communication necessary for landing such a quantity of stores was highly dangerous to the public health. When, however, the sufferings of the immigrants became so great it was necessary to relieve them at all hazards; and then no time was lost in preparing and dispatching forthwith the timber and other materials necessary for building the huts; the only delay having been, in consequence of a difficulty experienced in landing the first portion of them, from the state of the weather, which frequently renders it altogether impossible to communicate with Flat or Gabriel Islands.

6. The Secretary of State has inferred, from the words used in my report, that it was not until the end of February that the supplies of extra articles of food were sent down; this was far from being the case. The requisitions for these supplies commenced in the end of January, and were continued throughout, at intervals of only three or four days; their dates, for the months of February and March, being those given in the margin. These requisitions were for: port wine, brandy, rum, sago, sugar, preserved soup, preserved meat, lime-juice, potatoes, pothebs, onions, fowls, young goats for killing, milch goats for milk, cabin biscuits, Madagascar rice, extra clothing, salt fish, in extra quantities; and these articles were always dispatched without delay, although their being landed was, on one or two occasions, impeded by the state of the weather.

7. In answer to the queries as to the supervision of what was going on at Gabriel Island, I have to state, that I received reports from Mr. Finlay, at intervals of about five days, which was a frequency of communication as great as could be ventured on, with regard to the island being in quarantine, and to the great danger of communication with it. All Mr. Finlay's reports were immediately sent to the Government as soon as they were received, so that Government was kept fully informed as to what was going on at Gabriel Island.

8. No application was ever made from the island for either huts or additional medical assistance; they were sent without having been asked for. No European surgeon could be obtained except a military one, and for a very obvious reason, viz., that no medical practitioner could reasonably be expected to abandon, and permanently injure, his practice for the sake of one or, perhaps, two months' employment under Government, the remuneration for which would amount to only a small part of the loss he would sustain by the permanent injury done to his practice; to say nothing of his having himself to endure the greatest possible hardships, misery and personal danger. It is, therefore, not to be wondered at that no one could be found for such a service in a small colony, where the medical men are necessarily few, and all of them employed.

9. When the amount of disease at Gabriel Island became so great, the Major-general commanding the troops consented to a military medical officer volunteering for this service, and being placed in quarantine, although the result proved that he could ill be spared from his proper

Date of
Requisitions.
January 31.
February 4, 12, 16,
22, 25, 27, 28.
March 3, 4, 10, 17,
24, 31.

proper sphere of duty, for when the epidemic cholera broke out in the Colony in March the loss of Mr. Finnimore's services was keenly felt by the garrison, the troops having suffered severely, and the number of medical officers being insufficient; because Mr. Finnimore, being in quarantine, could not be recalled for the performance of his proper duties when urgently wanted.

MAURITIUS.

To the Honourable
The Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Geo. Clerihew, M.D.,*
Chief Medical Officer.

— No. 3. —

(No. 22.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Higginson* to the Right Honourable
H. Labouchere, M.P.

Mauritius, 28 January 1857.

(Received 20 March 1857.)

(Answered, No. 335, 6 May 1857, page 274.)

Sir

I BEG leave to transmit herewith, copies of a letter and resolutions adopted by the Chamber of Agriculture, presented to me by a deputation from that body, and of my reply.

2. The usual supply of Indian labour, on which the planters have heretofore relied, having been so abruptly and unexpectedly stopped, with some uncertainty as to the time when the prohibition against it may be withdrawn. The Chamber has been turning its attention to the practicability of finding other unobjectionable sources of supply, and I trust that it may be in the power of Her Majesty's Government to promote the views of the Colony in this respect. For if the prohibition should not be removed, and no other labour market be opened adequate to the agricultural necessities of Mauritius, it needs no seer to predict the ruinous consequences that will inevitably ensue.

3. The result of the limited experiment that has been made here of Chinese, as agricultural labourers, has not been successful, but there seems reason to believe that this arose from the inferior description of men introduced chiefly from Penang and Singapore, whose previous habits and pursuits ill fitted them for working on sugar plantations; and the measure of success which has attended the similar experiment undertaken on a more careful and better organised system in some of the West Indian Colonies, would appear to confirm this opinion.

4. I am aware of no obstacle to the introduction of Chinese immigrants into Mauritius, provided they be legally and regularly imported, and to be so certified by the British Consul or agent at the port of shipment; but the impossibility hitherto experienced of procuring the proportion of Chinese females to males, required on our Indian immigration (supposing this to be insisted on), will always form a formidable impediment to the introduction of labourers from that country. Chinese occasionally come to the island as traders, or are brought as free passengers, of whom there are at present about 3,000 engaged almost entirely as mechanics, or in petty trading. These, from their knowledge of the popular language, and of the prospects offered by the Colony, might facilitate the introduction and settlement of their fellow countrymen; but as men so introduced have not been considered emigrants, *quoad* engagements for three years, allowed in the case of labourers introduced under the regulations prescribed for the government of immigration, contracts of service entered into by them are limited to one year's duration, and this operates as a check to the evasion of the aforesaid regulations, for employers cannot afford upon a one year's engagement to reimburse to shippers the expense of passage, &c.

5. I am informed that it is the intention of the Chamber to address a memorial to Her Majesty's Government, developing their views more at large, and praying that measures may be taken to promote a wholesome system of immigration from China to Mauritius. I apprehend that there will be little difference in the views of the Chamber and the Legislative Council on this question, which shall be brought under the consideration of the latter in due course.

6. Siam is also looked to as a country from whence considerable numbers of
free

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No. 3.

Governor
Higginson to
Right Hon. *H.*
Labouchere, M.P.,
28 January 1857.

Enclosure 1.

Enclosure 2.

Enclosure 3.

MAURITIUS. free immigrants, women as well as men, can be procured. I am unable to form an opinion of the feasibility of this latter scheme, having a very imperfect knowledge of that country or of its resources. The President of the Chamber was desirous that an agent should be deputed to Bangkok, to endeavour to procure authentic information on the subject; but I did not consider myself at liberty to authorise such a proceeding, until the sanction of Her Majesty's Government had been previously obtained. If, however, the intelligence received by the Chamber should be corroborated by the more reliable information of which Her Majesty's Government may be in possession, the means by which it is proposed to prosecute further inquiry, should they appear to you unobjectionable, might with advantage be adopted.

7. At the present time alarm and anxiety prevail amongst planters, from an apprehended deficiency of labour; and although immigrants from India are preferred to all others, the dominant opinion now is (ascribable in part, no doubt, to the recent proceedings of that Government), that the industrial prosperity of the Colony should not remain entirely dependent on this one source of supply.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. M. Higginson.*

Encl. 1, in No. 3.

Enclosure 1, in No. 3.

To His Excellency *J. M. Higginson, C.B.*, Governor of Mauritius.

Sir,

Port Louis, 19 January 1857.

1. We have been requested by the Chamber of Agriculture to wait upon your excellency with the annexed resolutions come to at its meeting of the 17th instant, and to beg your prompt and favourable consideration of them.

2. The urgency of the need which prompts the chamber to solicit your excellency to adopt immediate measures, calculated to maintain an adequate supply of labour by promoting the accession, under proper regulations, of emigrants from other countries now that the natives of India are forcibly prevented from following their inclination to seek employment here, is too well known to your Excellency for it being necessary for us to do more than refer to it.

3. The Chamber prays your Excellency should it, on a re-examination of the existing law, be found necessary to introduce an Ordinance extending the faculty of lengthened engagements to voluntary contracts with emigrants from any country legally introduced, and authorising the payment of a premium on the introduction of all emigrants legally introduced from countries where there is no empowered agent of the Mauritius Government, to assemble such emigrants, and charter ships for their conveyance; or perhaps your Excellency might at once name an agent for Chinese emigration.

4. In support and explanation of their prayer, the Chamber would refer to the regulations and practice here, before the agencies in India were established, and to the practice and regulations adopted at Trinidad and Demerara to promote emigration from China.

5. From general report of the state of that country, and from particular information recently supplied to the Chamber from different independent and trustworthy sources, it appears that any required number of robust and industrious agricultural labourers would eagerly come forward from thence

1st. If they had the means of doing so put within their reach.

2d. If they could contract an engagement for three or five years at a satisfying rate of wages, which is an assurance and encouragement which they naturally desire before embarking for a distant country.

6. It further appears that Chinese are in the habit of finding their own way, in great numbers, to Singapore in search of work; but that they do so unaccompanied by females; that, however, there would be no difficulty, as soon as proper arrangements can be made, in introducing any proportion of females from China direct. It is from Singapore, owing to the season of the monsoons, that alone any introduction of Chinese labourers to aid in saving next crop can be expected; but the Chamber believes that neither your Excellency nor the Right Honourable the Secretary of State would object to a certain number of these men being received, though the doing so might constitute an exception to the desirable proportion of the sexes, to meet an emergency so serious and unexpected.

7. It remains for us only to convey to your Excellency the unanimous confidence of the Chamber in your power and disposition to open this resource which, though it would at any time

time have been as useful as it is legitimate, seems now the only means of averting the total ruin which the measures of the India Government, if persevered in even for a short time, must otherwise bring upon the Colony.

MAURITIUS.

We have, &c.
 (signed) *C.W. Wiehé*,
 Vice Presiden, Chamber of Agriculture.
 (signed) *G. Fropier*,
 Secretary to the Chamber.

Enclosure 2, in No. 3.

Encl. 2, in No. 3.

RESOLUTIONS come to at a Meeting of the Chamber of Agriculture held on the 17th January 1857.

THE Chamber of Agriculture, acknowledging on the subject of immigration the never-failing solicitude of His Excellency the Governor, who has given repeated proofs that he is fully aware that the prosperity of Mauritius depends upon the introduction of a number of labourers equal to the requirements of its cultivation:

Resolved,—

1. That His Excellency be requested to authorise, under proper regulations, the introduction of Chinese labourers into Mauritius.
2. That the immigrants so introduced be allowed to contract engagements for three or five years, for otherwise the expense of introduction would fall too heavily upon the employer.
3. That His Excellency be pleased to allow out of the funds voted for immigration a premium of *£. per head for the labourers introduced from Singapore, and *£. per head for those from China direct.

* Sic. in orig.

Enclosure 3, in No. 3.

Encl. 3, in No. 3.

(No. 47.)

Colonial Secretary's Office,
 24th January 1857.

Sir,

I AM directed by his Excellency the Governor to acknowledge receipt of a memorial, dated 19th instant, and of certain resolutions, relative to the introduction of Chinese labourers, which were placed in his hands by a deputation of the Chamber of Agriculture.

2. His Excellency expressed fully and frankly to the gentlemen composing the deputation the views which he entertained on the question propounded by the Chamber, explained the insurmountable obstacles to the immediate execution of some of the measures recommended, and assured them that, being sensible of the paramount importance of providing a supply of labour adequate to the necessities of the Colony, he was prepared to co-operate cordially with the Chamber in the promotion of this momentous object, as far as his instructions and the knowledge he has of the views entertained by Her Majesty's Government would authorise.

3. At the present conjuncture the planters of Mauritius naturally look to other sources of labour, lest that of India should unhappily fail them; and it appears to his Excellency that, until the sanction of Her Majesty's Government can be received to any new schemes of immigration that may be devised, we may anticipate that sanction, by prosecuting inquiries as to the extent and character of the supply of labour likely to be derived from other countries within our reach.

4. Fortunately our communication with England is now so much accelerated that the delay involved in a reference will be comparatively short, and his Excellency will take the earliest opportunity of bringing the proposals of the Chamber under the early consideration of the Secretary of State. His Excellency will, at the same time, solicit the sanction of the Secretary of State, if this course should be deemed expedient, to an agent being employed for collecting such authentic information as would enable the Government to organise a wholesome system of immigration, from the straits of Malacca, China, or other country lying to the east of the Bay of Bengal, from whence it is expected that free immigrants, accustomed to the tillage of the soil, can be conveniently procured.

5. In regard to the extension of three years' engagements to all immigrants, legally introduced, under the regulations prescribed for such purpose, His Excellency apprehends no difficulty in being able at once to meet the wishes of the Chamber; and he takes this opportunity of pointing out that, in the only cases in which engagements of immigrants have been limited to one year, it was in consequence of those regulations not having been conformed to.

6. His Excellency greatly regrets his inability, on this occasion, to go so far as the Chamber would desire; but, although, at first, disappointment may be experienced, the Chamber may, on reflection, concur with His Excellency that it is wiser, in the interests of immigration itself, not to take any course that is likely to be objected to by the Home Government, and might indispose it to receive favourably the applications for the

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further and more comprehensive concessions, which a prolonged suspension of Indian immigration would call for; and the very small immediate addition to the supply of labour promised from Singapore is, after all, but a trifling sacrifice. Moreover, Singapore being a part of the possessions of the Government of India, the prohibition against immigration may be thereto extended, which might render impracticable the fulfilment of the engagement proposed to the Chamber, and the acceptance of it, under the circumstances, of questionable utility.

James Currie, Esq.,
President of the Chamber of Agriculture.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. Dowland*,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Encl. 4, in No. 3.

Enclosure 4, in No. 3.

(No. 17.)

Sir,

General Police Office, 27 January 1857.

IN reply to your communication of the 26th instant (No. 50), I have the honour to report, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, that the number of Chinese now resident in the Colony is about (3,000) three thousand.

2. The greatest part of these people are employed in shops, and many hold licenses of the first class; some are employed as joiners, cabinet makers, butchers, basket makers, hawkers of fish, and shoemakers. In the rural districts a certain number of Chinese will be found earning a livelihood as petty farmers, cultivating plots of ground and rearing poultry, &c.; generally speaking, these people are a laborious, intelligent, and well-behaved portion of the community, and it is very rare indeed to find Chinese contravening the laws.

To the Honourable the
Colonial Secretary, &c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. M. Rennards*,
Acting Superintendent of Police.

— No. 4. —

No. 4.

(No. 37.)

Governor
Higginson to the
Right Hon. H.
Labouchere, M.P.
20 February 1857.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Higginson* to the Right Honourable
H. Labouchere, M.P.

Mauritius, 20 February 1857.

(Received, 11 April 1857.)

Sir,

I BEG leave, in continuation of my Despatch, No. 1, of 12th January last, to transmit herewith a copy of a further communication, with its annexures, which I have caused to be addressed to the Secretary to the Government of India, upon the subject of the suspension of immigration.

2. I also enclose an Ordinance which has been passed by the Legislative Council and myself, for amending the laws of quarantine, together with a draft of the proposed quarantine regulations, which have received the approval of the Governor in Executive Council, and which will be promulgated whenever the Ordinance shall come into operation.

3. The accompanying report by the Procureur General, will explain the principle of this law, and the points on which it differs from those which it supersedes. I do not for the present solicit Her Majesty's confirmation of the Ordinance, because it is not improbable that it may be found expedient hereafter to modify some of its provisions, in case they should be objected to by the Government of India; but I shall not hesitate to anticipate your sanction to this Ordinance, by giving effect to it either in its present or amended form, whenever the exceptions taken to our legislation on this head, by the Government of India, shall be conciliated.

4. The period of 21 days' quarantine, proposed for cholera by the regulations, may seem, both to Her Majesty's Government and to that of India, unnecessarily prolonged, as it does to myself; but as I have stated on many previous occasions, alarm for the introduction of this disease continues so intense, that neither the Council nor the public would consent to any further limitation, and, indeed, both the chief medical officer and the pratique officer, were of opinion that

No. 3, of 1857.
Vide Appendix,
No. 16, page 327.
Enclosure 5.

that a shorter quarantine could not be fixed without endangering the public health.

5. It will be observed from the enclosed letter, that the Council of Government has resolved to dispense with the services of a military detachment on Flat Island, owing chiefly to the difficulty experienced in satisfying the solicitude of the Major-general Commanding, for the due protection of the troops (who would necessarily be placed in close proximity to the infected lazaret) from disease; and also to a consideration of the advantages afforded to those in quarantine, by the additional space thus rendered available. This change will likewise greatly diminish the heavy expense proposed to be incurred at Flat Island, by rendering unnecessary the stockading and costly barrack accommodation indispensable for the military; and I do not myself see any reason why an effective guard should not be maintained by a body of police, whom it is proposed to substitute, although the additional security promised by military discipline would have been preferred, had it been found reconcilable with other considerations of no less importance.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. M. Higginson.*

Enclosure 1, in No. 4.

Encl. 1, in No. 4.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Mauritius,
14 February 1857.

Sir,

IN continuation of my letter of 6th January, I have now the honour, by direction of his Excellency the Governor of Mauritius, to transmit to you, for the information of the Right Honourable the Governor General of India in Council, six copies of an Ordinance which has been passed by the Governor and Legislative Council of this Colony, entitled, "An Ordinance to amend the Laws concerning Quarantine," together with the regulations framed under the authority of its provisions. These documents will afford to his Lordship in Council the information required by your letter of 31st October last, respecting the rules by which quarantine is henceforward to be governed, and it is hoped that they will satisfy his Lordship in Council that these rules do not bear with unnecessary or peculiar hardship on Indian immigrants, but that the due protection of their health and lives, as well as of the vessels in which they are conveyed, has been adequately kept in view in remodelling the provisions of the law.

2. In accomplishing the undertaking, it has been the object of the Government of Mauritius to endeavour to reconcile the views expressed by his Lordship in Council with the adoption of such precautions for the safety of the public health as would allay the apprehensions of a community stedfastly believing in the doctrine of contagion, and confidently relying on the efficacy of quarantine to prevent the introduction of epidemic disease. But should it appear to his Lordship in Council that, for the adequate protection of the immigrants, a further modification of any of these rules is indispensable, a representation to this effect will receive immediate and careful consideration.

3. Subsequently to the date of my last communication certain changes have been deemed advisable in the arrangements therein, reported as in course of progress at Flat Island.

First. It has been ordered, that, pending a final decision as to the site of the cholera lazaret, palisade huts and wooden houses sufficient for all purposes of a complete provisional quarantine station should be substituted for the stone buildings previously contemplated.

Secondly. It is proposed to construct the jetty at a different point on the shore. The reasons for this change, and a description of the character of the work itself, will be found in the annexed report of the acting surveyor-general.

Thirdly. It is intended to dispense with the services of a military guard, and it will thus no longer be necessary, as under the original plan, to provide for preventing all communication between them and the immigrants (a measure deemed essential, if soldiers be employed on quarantine service), nor, consequently, to confine the immigrants within a comparatively limited space stockaded off from the rest of the island. The whole of its surface, therefore, save the small portion occupied by the lighthouse establishment, will be available for the use of the immigrants, and increased facilities afforded for entirely separating the healthy from the sick whenever it may be thought desirable; a measure which may prove highly conducive to the mitigation and ultimate extinction of disease. The freedom from confinement which will thus be ensured cannot fail, his Excellency conceives, to be most beneficial in both its moral and physical effects. Nor could such scope and range (or, indeed, the other sanitary arrangements of which the increased space will admit) be attained within the narrow limits of a stockade on the main land. On this ground alone, therefore, Flat Island offers advantages as a lazaret which could not be realised on the shores of Mauritius, while it has this further advantage over the excellent climate of the latter, that its smaller surface is more immediately exposed on all sides to the renovating and invigorating influences of the sea breeze; indeed its salubrity is recognised beyond possibility of question, and experience has unequivocally vindicated the popular judgment on this point.

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4. Such being the advantages which it is proposed to secure to immigrants in quarantine on Flat Island, and such the endeavours which this Government is making to ensure their welfare and comfort, his Excellency would submit to the Right Honourable the Governor General in Council whether, in the interests of the immigrants themselves, the inconveniences arising from the detention of vessels in the roadstead of Port Louis for a few days (and this after a voyage, the duration of which is not more than one-third of that from Calcutta to the West Indies) on those very rare occasions when the state of the weather may prevent an immediate landing on Flat Island, are such as should counterbalance the peculiar sanitary advantages offered by that island; especially, too, as during such unavoidable detention the immigrants could be immediately supplied with whatever their necessities might require.

5. It may likewise be observed that a large portion of the soil of Flat Island is fertile and productive; and upon this point I enclose, by his Excellency's directions, the copy of a report from the director of the botanical garden.

6. Should the information contained in the documents previously forwarded, and in those now transmitted, unhappily fail to remove the objections to Flat Island entertained by his Lordship in Council, it is the earnest wish of the Government and public of Mauritius, as suggested in my last communication, that an officer should be sent here by the Right Honourable the Governor General to inspect the locality, clothed with discretionary authority, if he should be satisfied with its fitness for conversion into a lazaret, to accept it; or, if not so satisfied, determine on such other site as may be mutually agreed upon between the aforesaid officer and the Government of Mauritius.

7. Sensible as the Right Honourable the Governor General of India in Council must be of the injury inflicted upon the agricultural and commercial interests of this Colony by the measure which he has deemed it his duty to adopt, his Lordship in Council will not, his Excellency feels assured, be indisposed to respond to his appeal for the early settlement of a question, upon the solution of which the future fortunes of Mauritius so critically depend. Delay will not only enhance the losses directly resulting to the Colony from the suspension of immigration, but it will aggravate the vexation and disappointment produced by that measure, as well among the Indians now in the island as among those bent on coming here, tending to unsettle their minds, to excite their distrust, and to augment the difficulties that may be anticipated in restoring the system to the mutually satisfactory footing on which it has previously rested.

8. Upon further considering the objects to be gained by deputing an officer from this Government to wait upon the Governor General of India in Council, it has been resolved to defer this measure until after an answer is received from his Lordship in Council to the proposals which have been submitted; when, should the purport of that answer appear to call for the proceeding, or should it be desired by the Right Honourable the Governor General, an officer will be immediately dispatched on the mission.

9. His Excellency, however, believes that the documentary statements which have been furnished will be found to contain all the information that can be required, and hopes that nothing calculated to shed light upon the subject under consideration has been omitted.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Dowland,*
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary to the Government of India.

P.S.—I transmit herewith, by his Excellency's desire, a plan of Flat and Gabriel Islands, and the adjacent waters, drawn from an actual survey specially undertaken by order of his Excellency. Should this locality be accepted by the Indian Government as a proper site for a lazaret, it is intended to engrave this chart, and to furnish copies thereof to each of the presidential Governments for delivery to the masters of all vessels that may be engaged in carrying coolies.

Encl. 2, in No. 4.

Enclosure 2, in No. 4.

(No. 45.)

Sir,

Surveyor General's Office, 22 January 1857.

His Excellency the Governor having desired to receive a report on the fitness for occupation of the huts at present existing on Flat and Gabriel islands for the accommodation of immigrants, I have the honour to state that the buildings referred to are of the following dimensions, viz.: length 25 feet, width 15 feet, height 12 feet; they are built of palisades, and thatched. On one side the slope of the roof is continued until it meets the ground, the other side is upright and about four feet in height.

2. There are 18 of these huts on Flat Island, and 13 on Gabriel Island. They have all been recently strengthened and improved, and are at present quite weather proof. I consider them to be very healthy, fit, and convenient buildings for the occupation of immigrants. One of the 13 huts on Gabriel Island is considerably larger than the rest, and is intended for an hospital, the remainder are calculated to accommodate 20 men each.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. R. Mann,*
Acting Surveyor General.

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 3, in No. 4.

Encl. 3, in No. 4.

Royal Botanical Garden,
14 January 1857.

Sir,

1. AGREEABLE to your wish I visited Flat Island on Friday last, and I have much pleasure in being able to report favourably on the healthy appearance of the island, as well as the fertility of the soil.

2. I found at present growing on the island large trees of the following kinds: cocoa-nut, bearing fruit; vacoua, or screw pine, bearing seeds; latania palms, bearing fruit; filao, or casurina trees, also bearing seeds.

3. I have no doubt but many other kinds of timber, as well as many kinds of tropical fruit trees, would grow well there when sheltered a little from the strong sea breeze.

4. I would recommend that, near the sea on the most exposed places, a wall of earth and stone be built up, and planted on the top with plants of scoevola or veloutier blanc, a bush bearing white berries, growing plentiful on the island; this would give immediate shelter to the young trees that may be planted until they got established in the soil. I have already potted upwards of 300 casurina, or filao trees, for the purpose of being forwarded there. I have also potted 300 plants of another specie of filao, which I think will be very serviceable on the island; it grows even more rapidly than the other species, and throws up suckers from its roots in abundance; it makes excellent firewood, and there would be no fear of destroying it when once established, as when a plant is cut down the roots shoot up all around where the parent stood. I am also collecting a quantity of seeds of other kinds of trees to send there. In planting I would recommend cocoa-nut trees to be planted near the sea, farther back casurina or filao, and still farther back I have no doubt but mangoe and many other fruit trees would grow well.

5. I found on the island one or two pieces of ground enclosed as gardens, and the few kinds of vegetables left were looking well, considering that no care had been taken of them. If the gardens were enclosed, as mentioned above, I have no doubt but all kinds of vegetables might be grown there in abundance; it would be advisable to sink a well in the garden, so as to have water on the spot. In the open ground such roots as yams, sweet potatoes, manioc, and even potatoes, could be grown in large quantities, as the land is generally excellent.

I have, &c.

(signed) *James Duncan.*

To the Honourable the
Colonial Secretary.

Enclosure 4, in No. 4.

Encl. 4, in No. 4.

PROCLAMATION.

In the Name of Her Majesty VICTORIA, of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain*
and *Ireland* Queen, &c. &c. &c.

By his Excellency *James Macaulay Higginson*, Esq., Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the Island of Mauritius and its dependencies, &c. &c. &c.

WHEREAS by Ordinance No. 3 of 1857, the Governor of Mauritius, in Executive Council, is empowered to make and publish regulations concerning quarantine as often as circumstances may require: and whereas, it is necessary to make such regulations. In virtue, therefore, of the powers so vested in me by the aforesaid Ordinance, I do hereby proclaim and order as follows:—

REGULATIONS.

1. When the health officer of Port Louis, and the surgeon superintendent of the quarantine station at Flat Island, respectively proceed towards any vessel for examination, they shall display in their boat a red ensign, which shall be a signal to the vessel to heave to and allow such boat to approach or come alongside as shall be required.

2. The harbour master shall supply the said health officer and surgeon superintendent, and all authorised pilots, with a sufficient number of the flags required by the said Ordinance and by these regulations.

3. The said health officer and surgeon superintendent respectively after going on board the vessel, shall, in addition to the measures prescribed by the aforesaid Ordinance, inspect every person in the vessel. They may, if they think proper, call for inspection of the ship's books and papers; and they shall use every lawful means which to them seem expedient for ascertaining the sanitary condition of the vessel and persons therein.

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4. Persons landed at either of the quarantine stations shall perform quarantine for the periods following:—

1st. For cholera, 21 days from the death or perfect recovery of the person last affected.

2d. Small-pox, 21 days from the death or perfect desquamation or recovery of the person last affected.

3d. Typhus and yellow fever and other contagious or infectious diseases, 15 days from the death or perfect recovery of the person last affected.

When the last death, recovery, or desquamation occurred any time before quarantine was ordered, such time shall be taken into account in calculating the above periods.

5. Vessels, after landing their immigrants or any of their passengers and crew at either of the quarantine stations, shall perform quarantine for the periods respectively specified in the preceding section; and if any fresh case shall occur before the vessel is admitted to *pratique*, the said periods shall be calculated from the landing, at the proper quarantine station, of the person affected, or from his death, desquamation, or recovery, as the case may be.

6. Every vessel performing quarantine in the roadstead of Port Louis shall, from sunset to sunrise, exhibit a light at each fore-yard arm. And all guard-boats, when on duty in the said roadstead, shall from sunrise to sunset display a yellow flag, and from sunset to sunrise a light at bow and stern.

7. Throughout the whole time during which quarantine is ordered to be performed, a copy of the aforesaid Ordinance, and of this and any other regulations which shall have been proclaimed in virtue thereof, shall be placed in a conspicuous part of the station or vessel in quarantine, as the case may be, and shall be accessible to all persons so in quarantine.

8. No objects except letters and coins shall (without written authority of the Colonial Secretary or chief medical officer) be passed out of any place or vessel in quarantine; and every object which may be passed out thereof shall, before being forwarded to its destination, be disinfected in such manner as the health officer or surgeon superintendent, as the case may be, shall direct.

9. All letters or parcels for persons in quarantine shall be sent to the port-office, whence they shall be forwarded by the earliest opportunity.

10. Whenever any articles shall be taken by land to the station at Cannonier Point when in quarantine, the person or persons in charge of such articles shall leave them in the shed at the centre of the neutral ground, and shall then retire to the outward boundary of such neutral ground. After he shall have reached such boundary, the articles shall be taken into the quarantine station by some person or persons thereto attached, who shall, if required, leave a written acknowledgment shall (after being duly disinfected) be delivered by one of the military or police on duty to the chief person sent in charge of the articles as aforesaid.

11. Whenever any articles shall be taken to any vessel or to the station at Flat Island, or by sea to the station at Cannonier Point, when in quarantine respectively, they shall be forwarded in one or more boats furnished by the harbour master, bearing a yellow flag, and shall be accompanied by an officer of the port department.

12. Such boats, when sent to either of the quarantine stations, shall lay off at the distance of 200 yards from the landing-place thereat, and shall tranship the articles into one or more boats belonging to the station. If the weather does not permit such transshipment, and it is necessary to forward the articles, they shall be landed at the quarantine station in the boat or boats conveying them, and the military or police authorities at the station shall take proper precautions for preventing any person in quarantine from approaching the landing party.

13. Articles shall be conveyed to a vessel in quarantine in the following manner:—One of the vessel's boats shall be moored as nearly as may be 200 yards therefrom, and any persons who may have been in such boat shall return to the vessel. After they have done so, the boat containing the articles sent shall approach the said vessel's boat, into which the articles shall be transhipped. It shall then retire, and any persons from the vessel may proceed to remove the said articles or boat containing the same; care being taken that there shall be at least 200 yards between the persons so coming from the vessel and the boat from shore.

14. No person shall be permitted at any time to land on either of the quarantine stations without a written order from the Colonial Secretary or harbour master. Offenders shall be liable to the fines hereinafter specified; and also to prosecution for trespass.

15. The surgeon-superintendent of Flat Island may allow any persons performing quarantine there to go to such parts of the said island, or of Gabriel Island, for the purpose of exercise or to bathe at such places in the sea surrounding the same as he may appoint respectively, and the surgeon-superintendent at Cannonier Point may allow any persons performing quarantine there to bathe at such places in the sea adjoining the same as he may appoint, provided that the persons so engaged respectively shall always be placed under a sufficient guard.

16. The

16. The power conferred by the foresaid Ordinance to fire upon persons attempting to escape from quarantine shall only be exercised under the following limits, viz. :—

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1. In attempts to escape from vessels in quarantine, after the person shall have left the vessel.

2. In attempts to escape from Cannonier Point, after the person shall have crossed the outer line of palisades when the attempt is made by land, and after he shall have left the beach from the seaward side of the station, when the attempt is made by sea.

3. In attempts to escape from Flat Island, or from Gabriel Island, in the case of persons allowed to go there as before mentioned, after the person shall have left the shore of such island.

17. All persons transgressing any of the foregoing rules, shall for each offence be liable to a fine not exceeding 50/., and to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months cumulatively or separately.

18. The present regulations shall take effect from

Given at Government House, , this day of 185 .

By command,

Colonial Secretary.

— No. 5. —

(No. 119.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Higginson* to the Right Honourable
H. Labouchere, M. P.

Mauritius, 3 July 1857.

(Received, 21 August 1857.)

Sir,

(Answered, No 24, 6 September 1857, page 282.)

REFERRING to previous correspondence relating to the suspension of immigration from India to Mauritius, I now beg leave to transmit for your information, a copy of a communication from that Government, announcing that the prohibition had been withdrawn; and a ship has subsequently arrived here with coolies from Madras.

2. I shall hereafter forward a copy of the reply which I propose should be made to this communication.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. M. Higginson*.

No. 5.

Governor
Higginson to the
Right Hon. *H.*
Labouchere, M.P.
3 July 1857.

Enclosure.

Enclosure in No. 5.

Encl. in No. 5.

(Home Department.)

From *Cecil Beadon*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, to the Honourable
J. Dowland, Esq., Acting Colonial Secretary, Mauritius, dated 27 April 1857.

Sir,

1. I AM directed by the right Honourable the Governor General of India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your two letters, one of the 6th of January, the other of the 14th of February, replying to the Despatches from the Government of India which announced the suspension of emigration to the Colony, and explained the reasons of the measure. Your letter of the 14th February was not received here until the 4th instant.

2. Your letter of the 6th of January recounts the proceedings of the Colonial Government in the case of the emigrants brought by the ships "Futteh Mobaruck" and "Hydere," defending or excusing the steps taken, and correcting some inaccuracies into which the Government of India has been led by want of complete information. It also proposes certain measures by which it is hoped that the objections raised by the Government of India to Flat Island as a quarantine station may be removed, and the prohibition of further emigration to the colony withdrawn.

3. Upon the first of these heads it is acknowledged that two errors were committed; the reliance on tents for shelter, and the nomination of Dr. Finlay as surgeon superintendent. A third error is subsequently admitted to have been made by the chief medical officer in not sending to the lazaretto, when the outbreak of disease was declared, a larger supply of extra diet and medical comforts. But it is contended that these errors do not show either indifference or neglect.

4. It would profit little to discuss now the source from which these errors sprang. That the shelter provided was inadequate, the medical officers incompetent, and the medical comforts and diet insufficient, is admitted. Notwithstanding what is stated of unusual inclemency of weather, of the doctor's diploma and qualifications, and of the spirit in which the instructions to the chief medical officer were given and executed, a close examination of the

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letter

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letter under consideration, and of the papers accompanying it, has convinced the Governor General in Council that these errors might have been avoided by due care and consideration; that is, by such care and consideration, forethought, and preparation as might reasonably be looked for in the case of a colony eager to receive immigrants, and expecting to receive them; but resolved, in the event of their arriving with sickness amongst them, to subject them to a rigorous quarantine on a spot which, then at least, was considered to be "of extreme inaccessibility." That the consequences of the errors were fearfully aggravated for want of timely remedy, and even the knowledge of them, is not contested.

5. The Governor General in Council then finds in this letter no reason to believe that the opinion expressed by the Government of India upon the proceedings which it was called upon to review, is not substantially just; but he is very glad to acknowledge that the information now received shows that no blame is attributable to the protector of immigrants. It appears that until the sufferers were landed at Port Louis, he was without power to protect them, and that there has been no dereliction of duty on his part. I am desired, therefore, to express the regret of the Government of India that any neglect was imputed to him, and his confidence in the zeal and attention with which his duties have been discharged.

6. Stress is laid upon the fact that a description of Flat Island published anonymously in the Mauritius newspapers, has been cited by the Government of India, and it is said to be an untrue description. Undoubtedly in respect of the productive powers of the soil of the island, the report of the committee of the Legislative Council, now furnished by the Colonial Government contradicts that description, and is gladly accepted by the Government of India in place of it; but in respect of a sufficient supply of a good water, which is far more important, the anonymous account is confirmed by the Committee, and in respect of difficulty of access, although the Committee disbelieve that access has ever been impossible during 81 days, and deny that ships and boats have been wrecked on the island to the extent described; it still stands on record that, at the time when the letter of the Government of India was written, the opinions of the highest authorities of the colony, civil and naval, went very far to support the character given to the shores of Flat Island, by the anonymous writer.

7. The Governor General in Council, does not consider it necessary to say more upon the correspondence which has already passed. The practical questions which now call for consideration, are these:—

First. Can access to Flat Island be improved to such a degree, and can the occasion upon which a landing is dangerous be reduced in such rare and exceptional instances as shall make the place fit to be a quarantine station.

Second. Can provision be made for the well-being of the coolies who may be detained upon Flat Island whilst communication with it is cut off.

Third. Can the Colonial Government provide for the safety and well being of emigrants and emigrant ships, when, for the same reason, the coolies cannot be disembarked.

8. Upon this last question, the Governor-General in Council, is glad to say that the information conveyed by your letter of the 14th February is, if he rightly understands it, satisfactory. It appears that by an Ordinance passed in February last, to amend the laws concerning quarantine, it is provided that, in case a vessel shall be unable from stress of weather to proceed to the quarantine station or to land her immigrants there, she will be allowed to anchor and remain in the roadstead of Port Louis for such a limited time as circumstances may render necessary. It further appears in the report of the Committee of the Legislative Council, that the clear understanding of this Ordinance is, that in no case shall a ship be compelled to proceed to sea for the purpose of performing quarantine under sail. Assuming that this regulation so understood, is fully carried out and that in every case the place of anchorage assigned to the ship, is such that she may ride out the bad weather without being forced to sea for her own safety; His Lordship in Council, is willing to accept this part of the proposal.

9. With respect to facilitating the access to Flat Island, it appears probable that the works which are described in the letter of the 14th of February, may so diminish the difficulty of landing, as to reduce the time during which a vessel will be detained in Port Louis roads, waiting for an opportunity to land, to a space that would be no serious hardship. His Lordship in Council, presumes that all the works suggested in these papers, the improvement of the Pass Channel, the clearing of the beach, and the erection of the pier in the Pallissades Bay, the placing of mooring and warping buoys, and the establishment of boats of the station, with their crews, more suitable for landing in a surf than a ship's boats will be efficiently carried out. If this be done without any delay, and if from this time forward safe anchorage in the roadstead of Port Louis is in all weathers available to emigrant ships in quarantine, His Lordship in Council is not disposed to press farther at present, the demand for a cholera lazaretto on the mainland, and is willing to give a trial to the arrangements proposed by the Colonial Government.

10. It is not thought necessary that, as a preliminary measure, the Government of India should avail itself of the offer of the Colonial Government to receive an officer to be sent from India to examine that island, with the authority to accept or refuse it as a quarantine station at his discretion. The objects which the Government of India has in view cannot fail to be understood by the Government of Mauritius; it is required that the emigrants from India shall be henceforward safe from a recurrence of the miseries suffered by them a year ago, so far as safety can be ensured by human foresight and means; that at least they shall not suffer from want of shelter, of competent medical care, or of medical comforts; and that

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if they cannot be received on shore without any delay at all, this evil shall in no case be aggravated to them by their being driven out to sea.

The Government of Mauritius is of opinion that these objects can be attained without changing the site of the cholera lazaretto, and in deference to this opinion earnestly urged, the Governor General in Council is willing that, as an experiment, the lazaretto should remain on Flat Island. But the Colonial Government is best able to determine how these objects shall be accomplished; and the mission of an officer from India, whose judgment and report would be based upon a very cursory examination of the island, and of its various conditions of sea and weather would give little security to this Government, whilst it would tend to relieve the authorities in Mauritius of responsibility which belongs to them alone.

11. The security held by the Government of India for the complete accomplishment of the objects which it has in view, and which it is determined to obtain, is that to which it has already had recourse. If, notwithstanding, the opinions confidently given by the Colonial Government, and in spite of all precautions now to be taken, the landing of coolies on Flat Island should be found to be a work of so much difficulty as either to imperil their lives in the operation, or to render their detention on board of ship in sickness dangerously protracted, or if the shelter now offered to emigrant ships in quarantine should not be such as to preclude the necessity, in any circumstances whatever, of their being forced to sea in bad weather, the Government of India will consider itself bound at once to stop emigration to the Mauritius, without further notice, until these evils shall have been remedied by other and effectual means.

12. In respect to the preparations to be made at the lazaretto itself, the Governor-General in Council will not suppose that any short comings in regard to them will be allowed to recur. The letters under consideration show that shelter has already been provided, and it is confidently stated that the arrangements made for medical superintendence will prove efficient. To maintain on the spot at all times an adequate supply of stores and appliances is altogether within the power of the Colonial Government. On this head, therefore, the Government of India is satisfied.

13. The Governor General in Council has therefore resolved that the prohibition to the emigration of coolies to Mauritius shall now be withdrawn. In taking this step at once, the Government of India is doubtless acting in some degree upon trust. But his Lordship in Council will not suppose that his just expectations will be disappointed, or that any of the precautionary measures which have been suggested by the Government of Mauritius will not be carried forward with earnestness and expedition. The acting Surveyor General of the colony specified five months as the time within which the pier at the Pallisades, one of the chief works to be undertaken, will be completed.

14. It is necessary, however, in any circumstances, that some more sure and direct means of information, as to the condition of Indian emigrants placed in quarantine should be available to the Government of India. The protector of immigrants has at present no power to deal with the coolies until they have been released from quarantine. But there is apparently no reason why he should not receive reports of the condition of each body of immigrants who are landed, either in sickness or in apprehension of sickness; and his Lordship in Council would suggest that these reports should be addressed to the protector directly by the medical officer in charge of the lazaretto. They should be made for each day, even though they may not be transmitted daily.

15. With reference to the remarks contained in the 31st and following paragraphs of your letter of 6th of January, relative to the condition of the natives of India now residing in the Colony, I am directed to observe that the treatment and well being of the coolies, once landed and able to earn their livelihood, has never been in question, and has no bearing upon the manner in which they have been dealt with as new comers, from whom infection of cholera was to be apprehended. The Governor-General in Council gladly acknowledges that all that is known of the condition of the Indian labourers in Mauritius leads to the belief that they have nothing to complain of when once they have been received as working members of the community.

I have, &c.

(signed) Cecil Beadon,

Secretary to the Government of India.

Fort William, 27 April 1857.

— No. 6. —

(No. 140.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Higginson* to the Right Honourable *H. Labouchere*, M.P.

Mauritius, 2 August 1857.

(Received, 25 September 1857.)

Sir,

I BEG leave to forward herewith, for your consideration, a copy of a letter with its enclosure, addressed to me by Commodore Trotter, lately commanding the Cape of Good Hope squadron, intimating that he had boarded the English barque "Joker" in Boyanna Bay (Madagascar); and that from the evidence

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No. 6.

Governor
Higginson to the
Right Hon. H.
Labouchere, M.P.
2 August 1857.

Enclosure 1.

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taken by him he was of opinion that many, if not the whole, of the so-called emigrant labourers that he found on board had been slaves up to the moment of their embarkation.

Enclosure 2.

2. Some time subsequently a statement, copy of which is annexed and believed to be authentic, appeared in the local journals, transcribed from a reunion newspaper, to the effect that these same labourers had taken advantage of the master of the "Joker's" absence on shore to revolt, murdering his son and the greater part of the crew, and plundering the vessel.

3. Captain Asp, the master, had on a previous occasion introduced, under the prescribed regulations, emigrants from the coast of Madagascar, all of whom, on the usual examination on their arrival by the protector of emigrants, had declared themselves to have been perfectly free men, and that they had embarked for Mauritius voluntarily, and without any coercion whatever. He then obtained a fresh license, under date the 20th August 1856, and issued previously to the receipt of your despatch suspending further immigration from Madagascar; and proceeded to Boyanna Bay in search of a further supply of labourers.

4. The massacre committed by the people shipped appears to me to strongly corroborate the view taken by Commodore Trotter of the illegal manner in which they were obtained.

*Enclosure 3.
Enclosure 4.*

5. I annex copy of a report from the Procureur and Advocate-General, with copy of the bond referred to, suggesting the measures to be taken in the event of Captain Asp returning to this port, and in accordance with which the necessary investigation into the circumstances attending the shipment of these labourers shall be ordered, with a view to the institution of a criminal prosecution, if it should be deemed advisable; but I apprehend considerable difficulty in obtaining a conviction.

6. I have not reported these unfortunate proceedings sooner, being in expectation of Captain Asp's arrival; but, not learning anything further of him or his vessel, I have thought it right not to longer defer making this communication.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. M. Higginson.*

Encl. 1, in No. 6.

Enclosure 1, in No. 6.

Sir,

Her Majesty's ship "Castor," in Boyanna Bay,
(Bali) Madagascar, 18 February 1857.

Sub-Enclosure.

I HAVE the honour to call your Excellency's attention to the accompanying copy of a certificate which I have entered in the log of the English barque "Joker," of Seychelles, by which vessel I transmit this.

To His Excellency
J. M. Higginson, Esq., c.b., Governor of Mauritius,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. D. Trotter,*
Commodore.

Sub-Enclosure in Enclosure 1.

THIS is to certify that I this day boarded the English barque "Joker," Mr. Charles Asp, master, and caused to be examined several of the labourers, entered as such in Madagascar, for Mauritius, and that I have no doubt many of the labourers, if not the whole, now on board (amounting to 30 men and 10 women) have been slaves up to the very moment of their embarkation.

I consider this contrary to the spirit of the Act of the 5th Geo. 4th, cap. 113, and the Act of the 6th and 7th Vict., cap. 98; but as the Government of Mauritius will have an opportunity of availing themselves of the evidence, I allow the vessel to proceed to her destination, protesting against the master obtaining other labourers under similar circumstances.

(signed) *H. D. Trotter, Commodore.*

Dated n Boyanna Bay, Madagascar,
18 February 1858.

Enclosure 2, in No. 6.

We extract from the "Moniteur de la Reunion" the following passage, which contains a valuable detailed account of the massacre of the "Joker's" crew by the Sakalaves.

Translation.

NEARLY a month ago a rumour was spread at La Reunion, according to which a portion of the crew of the "Joker," an English vessel, moored in March last, in the Bay of Baly, had been butchered by the Sakalaves, and that the doomed vessel, given up to be plundered for several days, had been run aground on rocks.

2. Notwithstanding the painful and universal sensation produced in this colony by this sad intelligence, we did not feel authorised at the first moment, and lacking precise and authentic information to entertain our readers about an event of so serious a nature, of which we could at that time give them only an incomplete narrative, tainted with inaccuracy or exaggeration. We now regret to state, that the returns and correspondence since received from Baly, have brought us the afflicting certainty, that the doleful intelligence lately spread over the colony was yet a weakened description of the fact.

3. The Bay of Baly, that fatal spot where European blood has but too often been spilled, has in March last become again the scene of a fearful butchery and plunder. But let us allow speech to an eye-witness, who relates in simple and unadorned language all he has witnessed and felt on this occasion. The following lines have been extracted from a letter which was written soon after the catastrophe by one of the courageous missionaries established on the inhospitable coast.

"New misfortunes in the Bay of Baly! I now go on with my letter, broken off for several days. Alas! I have at present to announce one more disaster to which we were eye-witnesses. It might well be said of us, that we come here for the mere purpose of recording sinister events. I have written to you with regard to the 'Joker' and Captain Asp. This vessel was then within a day fixed for her departure: the captain retained on board for upwards of 10 days by a fit of the gout, is at last able to go on shore and settle with Sidi Bonna; scarcely had he got half way when the mate of the 'Joker' having sent the second boat to the 'Frederick and Amelia,' is now remaining alone on board of the 'Joker,' with the cook and Mr. Asp's unfortunate child, a boy of six years old.

"'Now is the proper time,' shout the conspirators, rushing forward and laying hold of every weapon within their grasp; with a single blow the cook's chest is hewn asunder with a hatchet, and poor little Fortune, the captain's son, is beheaded. Presently Mr. Asp's cabin is entered and muskets and gunpowder taken away. The first shot is aimed at and hits the cook, who had taken refuge on one of the yards; the poor fellow is precipitated a corpse into the sea. The vessel being now in their possession, the 'engagés' (i. e. engaged labourers) fall a plundering, slip the anchor chains, and let the vessel, pressed by the currents, go adrift; she soon after grounded near 'Samate Point.' Sidi Bonna, accompanied by all his people, is going to endeavour to get possession of the 'Joker' by means of two or three 'Boutres' which were lying in Baly Roads; but all the 'engagés' are armed to the teeth, and there was no possibility of doing any thing. Parleying is now had recourse to; the rebels reply, that they will surrender to the Queen and to no one else.

"In the evening the Queen arrives with all her attendants. 'To-morrow,' say the rebels, 'to-morrow is the day on which we hold a kabarre.' The kabarre has now been continued for three days, during which time the vessel, tossed about by the waves, like the trunk of a tree, is sacked, plundered, and destroyed; she is now lying near Raboucky tomb. At that place upwards of 300 Sakalaves congregated, with the 115 or 118 'engagés' who were on board the 'Joker,' and are busy in consuming the ship's stores, stealing, and carrying away everything. This morning we were told that the vessel is on a rocky ground, where she is making water, whilst the plundering is going on, and that no hope can any longer be entertained. Sidi Bonna and the Queen are presiding over all these doings. What may their intentions be? They were good in the beginning, I should suppose; but a relish for plunder coming along with plunder, the Queen and Bonna conduct themselves also quite like savages by this time. The ill-fated captain is with us for the present, awaiting the *dénouement* of this affair. It will be known ere long. Should the vessel be decidedly lost, he intends taking his passage on board the "Frederick and Amelia," which is to touch at Nossi Bé, for the express purpose of landing the captain and remainder of his crew on that island.

"And what, after all this, is to become of us? I assure you, we are far from being quiet after such a catastrophe! Here on shore we have more than 100 engagés, armed with muskets, and possessing gunpowder; barbarians elated with success, and irritated against the whites, &c. What, I ask, even again, what will be our fate? God's will be done!"

4. This extract tells so circumstantially this doleful tale as to render any addition of ours rather superabundant, were it not our wish to submit a few brief remarks connected with the immigration question; and, first of all, if we did not consider it to be absolutely necessary to complete this painful narrative by some further particulars obtained from other channels. It is affirmed that Captain Martin, in command of the "Frederick and Amelia," the moment he heard cries of distress on board the "Joker," immediately jumped into his boat with four sailors, to hasten to the assistance of the unfortunates about to be butchered; but it was too late; the murderers had rapidly dispatched their bloody work. The captain's son and the mate, both inanimate and dreadfully maimed, were lying on the blood-stained deck of the

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"Joker," and the cook had just fallen, a corpse, overboard. Of what avail, moreover, could the captain's and four men's interference be, in the midst of upwards of 100 insurgents, intoxicated with slaughter and formidably armed? Finding himself unable to lend assistance, and fully convinced of any endeavour to that effect being quite useless, he was compelled to row back and escape from the brisk fire of musketry directed against his boat by the engagés of the "Joker." Captain Martin and Captain Asp had for a moment thought of arming a couple of boutres, and endeavouring to regain possession of the vessel now occupied by the revolted engagés; but the Queen and Sidi Bonna opposed this attempt, under pretence that they could not allow any demonstration to take place against a vessel of which from that moment they instituted themselves the masters.

5. Retreat became now the most prudent measure to be had recourse to. The situation was fraught with danger; they were too weak for a struggle against a population of barbarians, ready for every extremity to assuage their thirst for blood, and satisfy their passion for pillage. The captain of the "Joker," with the remainder of his crew, and the missionaries who were at the Bay of Baly, embarked on board the "Frederick and Amelia," which forthwith set sail for Nossi Bé. During her voyage she fell in with the "Giraffe," a Government transport vessel, bound to Mayotta. Captain Martin, who went on board of the said vessel, met there the Commandant Supérieur of Mayotta and its dependencies; he gave to that functionary a detailed account of all that had taken place in the Bay of Baly.

6. After having collected with the most scrupulous attention all the information that was given to him on so horrid a disaster, the Commandant expressed his regret at being unable to send immediately a ship of war to Baly, having none of which he was prepared to dispose at that time. Captain Martin, after having left the "Giraffe," returned on board of his own vessel "Frederick and Amelia," which continued her voyage to Nossi Bé, where she landed on the 7th April last, the reverend fathers the missionaries, Captain Asp, and nine men of the "Joker's" crew.

Encl. 3, in No. 6.

Enclosure 3, in No. 6.

LOOKING at the terms of the bond, I have great doubts whether it covers the offence with which Captain Asp is charged, the forfeiture therein provided being applied merely to cases of contravention of the "regulations," and the general words in the concluding paragraph being, in my opinion, meant only to apply to these cases.

2. The case, however, comes under the 3rd section of the 5th Geo. 4, c. 113, as extended by 6 & 7, c. 98, s. 1, under which statutes Captain Asp is liable, in a penalty of 100 l. for each slave purchased by him, or which he has "procured, counselled, aided, or abetted" in purchasing.

3. Accordingly, if Captain Asp shall return to Mauritius, I think an investigation should be commenced for having him tried under the statements referred to. There may be some difficulty as to the jurisdiction of any court here to entertain the case; but, without prejudging the case, as it may appear after investigation, I think, that the Supreme Court will be able to entertain it as representing the Court of Admiralty.

(signed) *W. G. Dickson,*
Proc. & Adv.-General.

Encl. 4, in No. 6.

Enclosure 4, in No. 6.

Know all men by these presents, that I, Charles Augustus Asp, at present residing in the Town of Port Louis, in the Island of Mauritius, mariner, Master and Commander of the British barque called the "Joker," of the burthen of 136 tons, or thereabouts, am myself, and for the owners or owner of the said barque "Joker" held and firmly bound unto the Government of the Island of Mauritius, in the penal sum of 50 l. sterling, of lawful money of Great Britain, to be paid to the said Government of Mauritius, their attorney, agents, successors, or assigns, for which payment to be truly and faithfully made, I, for and on my own behalf and on behalf of the owners or owner of the said vessel, bind myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators firmly by these presents, this 20th day of August, in the year of our Lord, 1856.

Whereas, by regulations published in the Mauritius Government Gazette, of the 24th May 1851, and entitled "Regulations for the conduct of immigration from Madagascar, it is stipulated and required that the master of every ship conveying or destined to convey immigrants from Madagascar to Mauritius, shall execute a bond binding himself and his owners in a penal sum not exceeding 50 l. sterling, to conform to the several conditions in the said regulations provided; and whereas the said Charles Augustus Asp is destined to convey from Madagascar to Mauritius a certain number of Malgassy immigrants not exceeding one for every two tons register, when bullocks are carried in the hold, or one for every ton register when the vessel carries no bullocks, provided that a sufficient space for one half of the immigrants to be in is reserved below the deck to the Port of Mauritius.

And

And whereas the said Charles Augustus Asp hath agreed to execute the bond required by the said regulations for the due performance of the conditions, provisions and restrictions therein contained.

And whereas the said Charles Augustus Asp do and shall, well and truly in all things abide by, observe and keep all and singular the conditions, provisions and restrictions, which on the part and the behalf of the said owner or owners are or ought to be observed by and kept, and which are compromised and mentioned in the said regulations as aforesaid according to the true intent and meaning of the said regulations. And if the said Charles Augustus Asp do and shall immediately or as soon as possible after the arrival of the said vessel at the Port of Mauritius, deliver or cause to be delivered over to the protector of immigrants or other properly authorised public officers, the immigrants destined for the said port, then this obligation to be void and of no effect, otherwise to remain in full force and virtue.

Signed and delivered at Port Louis in the presence of

(signed)

Charles A. Asp.
J. A. Hammoneu.
J. Beard.

— No. 7. —

(No. 152.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Higginson* to the Right Honourable
H. Labouchere, M.P.

Mauritius, 12 August 1857.
(Received, 25 September 1857.)

Sir,

I BEG leave to recommend for confirmation the accompanying Ordinance, No. 22* of 1857, passed by the Legislative Council and myself, intituled, "To amend the Law relative to the engaging of newly arrived Immigrants."

2. I also submit for your information a copy of a correspondence that passed between the Colonial Government and the Chamber of Agriculture on the subject.

3. The Articles of Ordinance 15 of 1854, repealed by the new law, were found in practice to be open to some objections, which it is hoped that the provisions of that now enacted will obviate. These, as regards payment in full of all expenses of introduction, and the right of the party paying them, to claim from Government, in the event of immigrants so engaged not serving him for the full term of industrial residence, the amount of all stamp duty that may be levied on the subsequent engagements of such immigrants, are similar to the provisions contained in Ordinance 12 of 1855.

4. Under the Articles of Ordinance 15 of 1854, now repealed, parties were entitled to engage immigrants in excess of the annual quota assigned to them, by paying an extra tax of 3 *l.*, in addition to the ordinary tax of 2 *l.* levied on each triennial engagement, aggregating 5 *l.* This amount being frequently less than the entire cost of introduction, and moreover, a bond at months' date being accepted by Government in lieu of cash, the gain to parties engaging labourers on such terms was stated by the Protector to have aggravated the evils arising from an increasing competition for men at the immigration depôt; whilst the delay allowed for payment of the extra tax caused a similar delay in the importation of fresh men, in lieu of those so taken.

5. The proposal of the Chamber of Agriculture, that the first employer of the immigrant so engaged should be entitled to receive from the person engaging him, on the expiration of his first three years' contract of service, two-fifths of the expense originally paid by him (the first employer), I considered to be inadmissible, for the reasons that induced me to reject an application from the same body, for the introduction of a similar clause into Ordinance 12 of 1855, and which I explained in submitting that Ordinance for confirmation.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. M. Higginson.*

No. 7.
Governor Higginson to the Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.
12 August 1857.

* Vide Appendix, No. 18, page 335.

Enclosure 1.
Enclosure 2.

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Enclosure 1, in No. 7.

Encl. 1, in No. 7.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
15 November 1856.

Sir,

1. In communicating the accompanying Memorandum, drawn up by the Protector of Immigrants, to the Chamber of Agriculture, for the expression of its opinion on the suggestions therein contained, I have the honour to intimate to you that his Excellency the Governor concurs in the main proposition involved, viz., to repeal Articles 6 and 7 of Ordinance No. 15 of 1854, and, in lieu thereof, to apply the provisions of Ordinance No. 12 of 1855 to the introduction of all labourers that may be required by planters in excess of the annual quota assigned to each of the number introduced at Government expense.

2. At the period of the late Ordinance being enacted, the effect of the previous Ordinance upon its beneficial operation was apprehended; but it was deemed advisable to test the combined working of the two before repealing the above-cited Articles of Ordinance No. 15 of 1854; and, according to the information now furnished, the trial has not been successful.

3. Of the increased demand for labour there can be no doubt. It is, indeed, the natural consequence of the industrial progress which the Colony is so rapidly making; but, for the reasons assigned in the Memorandum, the rush to the dépôt to recruit on the arrival of every emigrant ship can scarcely be taken as an accurate criterion of the extent of this increase; for, although it may be quite true that emergencies not unfrequently occur, when additional hands become so indispensable for an estate, that the cost of obtaining them is but a secondary consideration, it is no less true that planters endeavour to procure men on the least onerous terms available. Hence the system of recruitment at the dépôt, and even on board of vessels before the emigrants are landed, and the fierce competition there, which often leads to scenes and transactions little creditable to the parties engaged in them, and which, the Chamber will no doubt agree, that it is exceedingly desirable to see repressed.

4. It appears to his Excellency that by the measure now proposed, employers generally would be placed at once on a more healthy and a more equitable footing, and that the existing temptation to the unfair advantage taken by the less scrupulous would cease, whilst the certainty of obtaining labour would be greater for those who are able and willing to pay the full cost of its introduction.

5. In reference to the expediency of sending recruiters to India, the planter's own experience will form his best guide. Such misconduct and disappointments as are pointed out by the Protector will, no doubt, sometimes occur; but his Excellency apprehends that if intelligent and trustworthy agents be selected, their assistance in procuring labourers will always be found more or less valuable.

I have, &c.
(signed) *F. Dowland*,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

The President of the Chamber of Agriculture.

Encl. 2, in No. 7.

Enclosure 2, in No. 7.

To the Honourable *H. Sandwith*, Colonial Secretary.

Sir,

Port Louis, 24 June 1857.

1. WITH reference to a communication from your predecessor, under date the 15th November last, and to the draft of Ordinance for "Amending the Law relative to the engaging of newly-arrived Immigrants," published in the Government Gazette of the 6th instant, I am directed to transmit to you, for the consideration of his Excellency the Governor in Council, the enclosed report, prepared by a committee of the Chamber of Agriculture, and unanimously adopted at the last meeting of the Chamber.

2. It would be superfluous for me to attempt, either to express in stronger terms the sense entertained by the Chamber of the intentions of his Excellency in bringing forward this Ordinance, or to demonstrate more clearly the necessity of considerably modifying it in order that it may produce the good effects which he contemplates as likely to result from it, and prevent the injustice involved in the entire insufficiency of the means which have been suggested to him for indemnifying the planter for the new and heavy charges which the draft of Ordinance proposes to lay upon him.

3. Nevertheless, I am desired to beg his Excellency in Council to give his favourable attention to the following further considerations:

4. It appeared to the Chamber that the suggestions of the Protector of Immigrants proceed upon a radically erroneous principle, and one which cannot be for a moment entertained by any one looking to the interests of all classes in the Colony, to the wants of the English consumers, and to the often-expressed ideas and desires of the superior authorities, both here and at home.

5. In

5. In the opinion of that officer it would appear to be wisdom and good policy not to facilitate the supply of the real and legitimate demand for labour, but to invent means, by fresh taxes and additional expenses, to create an artificial and oppressive restriction to the demand, and deter employers from resorting to the depôt. Such an attempt, as reason would presume, experience has proved, can only augment the "fierce competition" and the irregularities which exist there; but nevertheless, while an infallible means of extracting more money from the planter has been suggested to his Excellency, any provision for practically assuring him either the benefit of the labour he will be called on to pay for, or failing that, even a reasonable partial indemnity for his outlay, has been neglected.

6. His Excellency has too often proved, and the most recently received Despatches from the Secretary of State too clearly declare, the desire of allowing to the planter every legitimate facility for maintaining and increasing the produce of the island for it to be requisite to do more than point out this tendency to strangle the demand for labour at the depôt, and augment the real want of it on the estates; and the Chamber relies on his Excellency making such modifications in the proposed Ordinance, as, while securing all due freedom to the immigrant, will augment the number of labourers, and at the same time indemnify the planter, for the instant, heavy, and otherwise unfair burden, which, as it at present stands, the draft would subject him to.

7. It is absolutely certain that the Government, unless by a different practice and regulations than those now enforced, and without a degree of perpetual surveillance and vexatious interference which are not to be desired, would not, and could not, collect from the immigrants, when once discharged and dispersed, anything like a sum sufficient to compensate or reimburse the planter for his outlay.

8. I am desired therefore particularly to solicit his Excellency's consideration of the regulations suggested by the Chamber to meet this fair requirement. They appear to be simple, practical, and just to both sides. Looking to the spirit and letter of the fundamental Ordinance relating to immigrants, prepared by the Secretary of State himself, and to the declaration of principles laid down by the Despatches which accompanied it, the Chamber cannot entertain a doubt of the propriety of every immigrant lawfully introduced, either at the cost of the Colony or of individuals, being held bound at the time of his discharge to make good, either through the means of a subsequent employer, or in the manner otherwise enjoined by the Secretary of State, a portion of the cost of introduction proportioned to the unexpired term of industrial residence.

9. I am further desired respectfully to urge upon his Excellency the suggestion that all sums paid in virtue of this projected Ordinance should at once, and by a provision in the law itself, and without any new vote *pro re nata* being necessary, be at once applied to the introduction of additional immigrants, and that the proper officer be instructed to forward the demand for such additional immigrants, monthly or quarterly, as the fund accumulates.

10. In conclusion, the Chamber prays his Excellency to refrain from making the proposed change in the law of 1854, unless either by the means suggested by the Chamber, or by others which may be devised, more fitting, but equally efficacious and practicable, full assurance is had on these two points; viz.

1°. That the additional tax proposed to be laid on the agricultural interest shall be immediately applied to the purpose of augmenting the supply of labour, as was nominally set forth by the existing law, but which has been put in practice too tardily, when acted upon at all; and,

2°. That the individual planter contributing to that fund shall be assured of receiving the full advantage from his outlay, or of being reimbursed in due proportion.

I have, &c.
(signed) J. Currie,
President of the Chamber of Agriculture.

Sub-Enclosure.

TRANSLATION.

REPORT of the Immigration Committee of the Chamber of Agriculture upon a Communication from Government, dated the 15th November last, for the purpose of obtaining the Opinion of the Chamber upon a proposition emanating from the Protector of Immigrants relative to Ordinances Nos. 15 of 1854, and 12 of 1855.

Gentlemen,

1. THE suspension of Indian immigration having led to the withdrawal from the order of the day of your Chamber of all questions of detail or of organisation connected with such immigration, it is only upon the receipt of intelligence of a more satisfactory nature from India that the proposition of the Protector of Immigrants has again been brought to the notice of your Committee.

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2. Now that the unfortunate circumstance that caused this long delay appears under an aspect less menacing for the Colony, it becomes our duty to reply as soon as possible to his Excellency the Governor's request, and to thank him for this new mark of goodwill, and confidence in the Chamber of Agriculture.

3. Your Committee has consequently read and examined, with the attention they merit, the proposition of the Protector of Immigrants and the letter of the Honourable the Colonial Secretary, and compared them with the Ordinances to which they refer.

4. The Government having set aside the incidental suggestion relative to the sending parties to recruit in India, the proposition of the Protector of Immigrants is reduced to the question of replacing Articles 6 and 7 of Ordinance No. 15 of 1854 by Ordinance No. 12 of 1855, or, more correctly, by Articles 4 and 5 of this latter Ordinance, which articles alone seem to be truly applicable to the end proposed.

5. This end appears to be, in particular, the greater equalisation of chances between planters, by raising to the real price of the introduction of the immigrants the amount of sur-tax to be paid by a planter taking more men than the proportional number to which he is entitled under existing regulations, and thereby to diminish the motives that lead to undue and prejudicial competition at the immigration depôt.

6. By the law of 1854, every one obtaining the services of more immigrants than the number he is entitled to, is only bound to pay, over and above the usual stamp tax, the sum of 3*l.* extra tax, which sum should be employed in bringing down an additional number of immigrants upon sufficient security. The planter is allowed a delay of six months for payment of the tax, which amounts to 2*l.* for three years.

7. According to the law of 1855, every one taking advantage of the right of bringing down immigrants for himself, is bound to pay the whole of the passage-money, and other expenses attendant upon the proportion of women that ought to accompany these immigrants.

8. It is the difference between these two dispositions of the law that constitutes, in the opinion of the Protector and of the Government, an unjust preference in favour of a party taking extra men under Ordinance No. 15 of 1854; and, as a consequence thereof, an encouragement to seek to secure men from amongst those already in the Colony, and to seduce them by gratifications of all sorts, to the detriment of those persons who have not received their regular contingent, and who cannot hope to see them replaced by the sur-tax of 3*l.*, as that sum alone will not cover the expense of the introduction of another man.

9. As to what concerns the preference given to new over old immigrants, it is necessary to observe that it is not even apparent. The most certain proof of this that can be adduced, is, that not one of these latter remains unemployed. Planters prefer them, not only because there is no tax to pay for men of more than five years' standing, but also, and especially, because these latter, like men of three years' standing, more than compensate by the superiority of their labour for the difference that may exist between the rate of their wages and that of the wages of newly-arrived immigrants; which difference, moreover, is reduced to nothing from the very first day, by the gratifications of all kinds spoken of by the Protector, added to the expenses incurred in sending recruiting sirdars to India, especially when the sur-tax of 3*l.* is added to the stamp-tax of 2*l.*; since the sums above, with interest for three years, and the losses resulting from permanent absences and deaths, are equivalent to more than one dollar per month, the usual amount of difference between the wages of new and old immigrants.

10. This argument may therefore be set aside, for the truth is, that if newly-arrived immigrants are eagerly sought after, it is because there are not a sufficient number of old immigrant labourers.

11. As to the real difference resulting from the dispositions of the two laws above recited, your Committee is sensible that it is of some importance; however, it does not seem to be so considerable as the Government seems to believe it to be, nor of such general importance.

12. In fact, in the case of the Ordinance of 1854, the planter pays altogether to the treasury 5*l.* for each new immigrant he engages over and above his proper contingent.

13. In the case of the Ordinance of 1855, he would pay (if this Ordinance had not been, in fact, a dead letter to the present time) about 8*l.*, that is to say, 6*l.* for the mean calculation of men for these latter years, and 2*l.* for the proportion of women. But in case where he should only profit of three-fifths of the period of industrial residence for these immigrants, that is to say, in case they should not re-engage with him, he would be reimbursed by Government a sum varying from 30*s.* to 60*s.*; 30*s.* if these men re-engaged with one other person for the two remaining years, that is 1*l.* for the first year, and 10*s.* for the second; 40*s.* if they pass these two years with two different employers, each paying 1*l.*; and lastly, 50*s.* or 60*s.* if they were to compound for one or two years of service.

14. The

14. The difference between these two positions would amount therefore, in the opinion of your Committee, to no more than 1*l.*, even if a regulation modifying the law were to reduce the reimbursement to 1*l.*, and to the indirect advantage of not paying cash the stamp-tax of 2*l.* under the provisions of Ordinance No. 15 of 1854.

15. But however slight this difference might be, your Committee would not hesitate to recommend you to approve any measure that would tend to do away with it, if the measure were at the same time of such a nature as not to open a door to new sources of inconvenience.

16. The members of the Chamber have always desired equal protection for all, and will always approve Government in all that tends, even in an indirect manner, to diminish the system of competition so often blameable that has sprung up at the depôt, and the necessity of which can scarcely be explained.

17. You will therefore, we believe, approve Government in seeking to re-establish equilibrium on these two points, by no longer granting any delay for the payment of the tax of 2*l.*, and in increasing by 1*l.* the sur tax of 3*l.*, which would really raise the charge in the former case to 6*l.*, provided more efficacious means than those hitherto employed were discovered to make this money turn to the advantage of those disappointed in receiving their fair contingent of men, by asking, each mail, for the additional number thus due.

18. Were it otherwise, the inconveniences to which agriculture is now exposed in this respect would, far from being diminished, be considerably augmented, to the great detriment of the entire Colony, for some parties would pay more without others profiting more.

19. This, however, is only a palliative for an evil of merely relative existence; and we are justified in declaring that it would amount to causing a direct evil in order to heal an indirect one.

20. In fact the planter, who, under the law of 1854, actually pays 5*l.* to engage for three years men whose introduction, along with that of their wives, only costs 6*l.* or 8*l.* for a service of five years, pays in reality all that he ought to pay, and even more, since two-thirds of 8*l.* is but 4*l.* 16*s.*, and the difference between him and a party who, under the Ordinance of 1855 would pay 8*l.*, consists, not in the former paying too little, but in the latter paying too much; for, once more, he pays the whole of the expenses of the introduction of a man from whom he can only expect to obtain three-fifths of his period of service, and can only hope for reimbursement in a distant claim, perhaps illusory, and in every case incomplete.

21. This state of things constitutes a radical evil, the true remedy for which we do not hesitate to say consists in engagements for five years. This remedy, equally applicable to so many other serious evils, has been so often brought to the notice of Government, that it may at first sight seem useless to so cite it again, and that the prejudices which alone were worked against it seem daily diminishing on the part of Government, both Colonial and Imperial, we should not neglect any occasion of pointing out any of its least advantages.

22. Thus, were the faculty of entering into such agreements conceded, all the difficulties of our present system would disappear simultaneously. The payment of all the expenses of introduction would be simply justice towards the employer, and Government would be relieved from making any provision in the budget for an object of such importance as immigration, whilst it would throw all expenses on the parties engaging men and directly interested; with power, however, in times of commercial crisis or difficulty, to advance a portion of these expenses. Until this system be adopted, it will be impossible to act equally towards all, for even in equalising the differences just spoken of, there is, after all, nothing to prevent a party not receiving his fair contingent being sacrificed to others, since he will have paid his share of taxation without profiting of it equally with others.

23. This is only one view of the question, but it is desirable that it should not escape the enlightened perspicacity of his Excellency the Governor.

24. His Excellency, with his usual sound judgment, having already perceived how undesirable was the suggestion tending to prohibit the despatch of recruiting sirdars to India, it might be unnecessary to touch upon it; yet it is proper to proclaim once more, this well known truth, that want of labourers alone compels planters to resort to measures of which they are themselves the first to acknowledge the inconveniences; measures very costly and troublesome to them, but indispensable to prevent greater inconvenience. They all know that the sending men to recruit in India deprives the Colony of a number of men equal perhaps to 10 per cent. of those annually introduced. All would wish to escape the necessity of preparing for more than a year in advance against the total want of labourers, and to avoid the annoyance of paying and dispatching sirdars, who perhaps will not return, or if they do, will allow themselves to be seduced by others. But can they do otherwise, when they know that they seldom or ever can procure men at the depôt, unless brought down for them by recruiters, and, be it said in passing, in the interest of all parties, it is better for them not to appear at all at the depôt, unless when summoned by one of these old servants; can they do otherwise, when they know that for want of such precautions, after all often insufficient, the most solid fortune can be shaken? No, it cannot be otherwise so long as immigration does not supply the Colony with a number of labourers sufficient for all its wants. And in this respect, the Chamber of Agriculture places full confidence in his Excellency the Governor. What he has hitherto done to assist the progress of the Colony, he will do again. Whether present or distant, he will demonstrate to those on whom depends our fate that the production of Mauritius, which has more than doubled itself during his administration, can double

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itself again in a few years (as we possess all the other elements), by a sufficient supply of labour, and by suitable regulations, to the very great advantage both of commerce and agriculture, of the English consumer as well as the Mauritius producer.

25. To resume, we propose to you, that if you adopt this report, you will pray our President to transmit the opinions contained in it to his Excellency the Governor, in reply to his communication of November last.

28 May 1857.

(signed) *G. Fropier.*

26. This report was written when a draft of Ordinance on the subject appeared in the Government Gazette of the 30th May.

27. The observations of the Committee apply to this draft of Ordinance, as well as to the documents which preceded it; very few words will, we hope, suffice to complete them.

28. The draft assimilates in every respect, as regards expenses, the party taking more than his contingent to one who sends directly for immigrants; he will, therefore, probably have to pay from 6*l.* to 8*l.* per man. We have endeavoured to prove that this is too much when he would only profit of three years of service.

29. A remedy which would be possible, although still incomplete, would be, instead of the illusory right given in Article 4, and which would be as inconvenient for Government as vexatious to the planter to enact, as the Chamber of Agriculture has already proposed in its observations upon the law of 1855, that the party succeeding the planter in the engagement of the labourer shall be bound, at the moment of breaking the engagement, to reimburse to the former planter two-fifths of the sum he may have paid to Government, with interest for three years, and in like manner for the last year; that is to say, the last employer shall in his turn pay the preceding employer the last fifth with interest. The same regulation should be enforced when the Indian purchases exemption for his period of residence. This would be but justice, and no one could allege that the provision of the law was injurious to the liberty of the subject. This allegation would fall to the ground in presence of the reflection that since the obligatory payment of 8*l.* by the first employer does not affect this liberty any more than the present taxes now levied of 2*l.* and 5*l.*, the payment of 3*l.* cannot have this effect.

30. The draft of Ordinance has completely neglected any clause to provide for demanding an additional number of immigrants corresponding to that for which the tax may have been paid. We believe this to be an oversight; but we think we have demonstrated that this disposition ought to be more positive and more carefully drawn than in the preceding Ordinances.

31. For want of such a clause, and the amendment mentioned in a preceding article, we do not hesitate to say that the projected law, though due to ideas of benevolence and justice, would only succeed in creating a tax useless and ruinous to agriculture.

32. It might diminish competition, but it would be by suppressing the possibility of it, and consequently sapping the resources of the Colony.

(signed) *G. Fropier, Reporter.*

15 June 1857.

— No. 8. —

No. 8.

Governor Higginson to the Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.
9 September 1857.

(No. 177.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Higginson* to the Right Honourable *H. Labouchere*, M.P.

Mauritius, 9 September 1857.

(Received, 23 October 1857.)

Sir,

(Answered, No. 80, 26 November 1857, page 284.)

• *Vide* Appendix, No. 19, page 336.

I now beg leave to recommend, for Her Majesty's gracious confirmation, the enclosed ordinance, No. 23* of 1857, intituled, "To amend the Law as to the introduction and engagement of Immigrants from Territories not under the government of the East India Company," which has been passed by the Legislative Council and myself.

2. The accompanying report of the Procureur General upon this Ordinance fully explains the nature of its provisions, and the necessity for enacting them.

3. The main objects in view are twofold. First, to regularise, under licenses to be issued by the Governor, immigration from such countries, not within the territories of the Honourable the East India Company, as have been or hereafter may be sanctioned by Her Majesty's Government; and, second, to prohibit, under heavy penalties, the introduction of such immigrants, except under the provisions of this ordinance.

4. I may here remark, that the present Procureur General coincides in the opinion expressed by his predecessor, that under the existing laws there are no sufficient means of preventing a recurrence of the irregularities committed in the cases of the French ships "Glaneur" and "St. Germain."

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5. It is hoped that an immigration so carefully guarded will not be found open to objection; whilst the penalties imposed for contraventions of the new law will, it is believed, effectually prevent any recurrence of such irregular and unauthorised introduction of labourers as were successfully attempted last year, and that, under the provisions of this ordinance, the Governor will be empowered to repress every form of immigration, which is contrary to the national policy.

6. It will be observed that the proportion of females to male immigrants has been left to be fixed by the regulations, which, under the authority of the ordinance, the Governor, in Executive Council, is empowered to frame; and I undertook, on the part of the Council, to represent that if rigorous restrictions on this head were at the outset insisted on, the advantage to the labour market promised by the new measure would be neutralised, and thus one of its chief objects be partially defeated, from the repugnance which is felt in most countries to the emigration of women until the way is cleared by male pioneers, upon whose report, if satisfactory, the other sex become less indisposed to follow the men. On this important point the instructions of Her Majesty's Government are solicited; but I would venture to suggest that, in the first instance, a small proportion of females only should be exacted, say about half that fixed in the immigration from India, to be prospectively augmented in a corresponding ratio.

7. It has been deemed advisable to provide that this ordinance shall not take effect until confirmed and allowed by Her Majesty, and a clause suspending its operation has therefore been added to it.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. M. Higginson.*

— No. 9. —

(No. 179).

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Higginson* to the Right Honourable
H. Labouchere, M.P.

Mauritius, 9 September 1857.
(Received, 23 October 1857.)

No. 9.
Governor *Higginson*
to the Right
Hon. *H. Labouchere*,
M.P.
9 September 1857.

Sir,

(Answered, No. 105, 19 January 1858, p. 285.)

REFERRING to the correspondence noted in the margin, I beg leave to transmit herewith, for Her Majesty's gracious confirmation, Ordinance No. 26* of 1857, intituled, "An Ordinance for preventing the illegal introduction of Indian Immigrants into Mauritius."†

† *Vide Appendix*,
No. 20, p. 340.

2. The Procureur and Advocate General, concurring in the opinion of his predecessor, that there existed no colonial law under which violations of our Indian immigration regulations, similar to that committed in the case of the French ship "St. Germain," could be effectually prevented, the introduction of an Ordinance for the purpose became indispensable. That now submitted, was accordingly prepared; and it is hoped that the powers now conferred upon the Executive Government will enable it to repress and punish all further attempts to illegally introduce immigrants from India into Mauritius, or to any of its dependencies.

3. In regard to Ordinance No. 11 of 1842, referred to in the Land and Emigration Commissioners' Report, and containing very stringent enactments against such violation of the law as has given rise to this correspondence, I beg to state that this Ordinance, for some reason which I have been unable to trace, does not appear to have been confirmed by Her Majesty, and did not consequently lapse; and by some oversight, I presume, its penal provisions were not, unfortunately, embodied in any subsequent law.

4. The engagements containing the invalid clause, entered into by the immigrants, per ships "St. Germain" and "Glaneur," have not been cancelled; but the immigrants have been made distinctly acquainted with their true position, and with their perfect liberty, at the expiration of the three years' contract, to select other employers, without being in any way bound by the provision of the invalid clause, requiring them, in such a case, to re-imburse two-fifths of the
amount

* Secretary of State's Despatch, No. 313, of 8 April 1857, p. 256. Secretary of State's Despatch, No. 350, of 19 May 1857, p. 276.

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amount charged for their passage to Mauritius. I enclose a copy of a circular letter which has been addressed to stipendiary magistrates upon the same subject.

5. I much regret to perceive, from the tenor of a letter under date the 7th May last, from Sir J. Melvill to the Secretary to the India Board, that some doubts were entertained by the Honourable the Court of Directors of the desire of the Government of Mauritius to prevent the illegal introduction of natives of India, which, on the part of the Council of Government, as well as on my own, I must emphatically disclaim. So far from encouragement being given to evade the law, the instances of its violation that occurred at Aden and Bombay were promptly denounced to the Indian authorities at both places, and early steps were taken, by proclamation and otherwise, to warn all parties against the consequences of any repetition of such proceedings, the defective state of the law, only then made apparent, alone saving the importers of the immigrants from prosecution and punishment.

6. I would further observe, in reference to the strong objection entertained by the Honourable Court to immigration from India to the Colonies, except through agents authorised by Government to conduct the service, that I have never advocated any other system; but, on the contrary, I have invariably opposed all schemes based on a different principle; and the sentiments on this question, recently expressed in par. 6 of my Despatch, No. 143 of the 14th August 1856, reporting the arrival of the "St. Germain," will be found to entirely accord with these views.

7. It may be well to add, that it was resolved to introduce this Ordinance previously to the receipt of your Despatch, covering the communication from Sir J. Melvill to the India Board, in which resolution it is hoped that the Honourable Court may recognise an additional proof, if such be wanting, that the Colonial Government is determined to exercise all the authority and influence it possesses to prevent the introduction of Indian labourers by any other means, save those that have been sanctioned by the Court, in communication with the Government of India.

8. The usual report by the Procureur and Advocate General accompanies; and I have deemed it right to forward copies of the Ordinance and of this Despatch, for the information of the Government of India.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. M. Higginson.*

Encl. in No. 9.

Enclosure in No. 9.

To the Stipendiary Magistrate, &c. &c.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
25 November 1856.

Sir,

I AM directed by his Excellency the Governor to invite your attention to the engagements for three years, which were passed on the 26th, 28th, and 29th July last, by Messrs. de Coursont & Co., with certain immigrants, who arrived here on board the French ship "St. Germain," and also to those for a similar period, passed on the 1st August, by Mr. A. Hardie, of the "Riche Marne" estate, with the emigrants per "Glaneur," in which engagements a clause was inserted to the effect that these men would be liable, under certain conditions, on the expiration of their engagements, to pay a certain portion of their passage money hither; and I am to state that, as they must, of necessity, on the expiration of their present engagements, present themselves before the stipendiary magistrate who passed such engagements, or some other stipendiary magistrate, either for the purpose of being discharged if they do not re-engage, or to enter into a fresh engagement if they do re-engage, his Excellency directs that you will resist any attempts that may be made at the expiration of the three years in question, to enforce the clause in their contracts alluded to, and that you will inform these immigrants that such clause is utterly untenable in law.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Dowland,*
Acting Colonial Secretary.

— No. 10. —

(No. 19.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Stevenson* to the Right Honourable
H. Labouchere, M. P.

Mauritius, 3 November 1857.

(Received, 7 January 1858.)

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch, No. 16, of the 20th August, with its enclosures, from the Foreign Department and the Admiralty, requiring a full and immediate explanation of the circumstances under which the English barque "Joker" was furnished with a licence to carry labourers from the coast of Madagascar to this Colony.

2. I find that my predecessor has already reported to you, in Despatch No. 140,* of the 2d August 1857, that the licence to which you refer was granted previously to the receipt of your Despatch, under date of the 26th August 1856, prohibiting the introduction of labourers from Madagascar; that, if the immigrants found on board the "Joker," by Commodore Trotter, had not embarked of their own free will, the commander of that vessel was acting in violation of the terms upon which his licence was granted to him; and that, in the event of his returning to this island, a legal investigation would be made into the matter, under the advice of the law officers of the Crown.

3. Captain Aps has not returned, nor has anything more been heard of him since the report, which my predecessor likewise transmitted to you, of the mutiny and massacre which occurred on board the "Joker."

4. It only remains for me, therefore, to show the authority upon which the licence referred to was granted.

5. In answer to my inquiries upon this point, the Colonial Secretary placed in my hands the regulations of the 23d May 1851.

6. Upon my then asking on what authority these regulations were issued, the following particulars were reported to me as the result of a careful investigation; and I believe that this report exhibits the facts as clearly as they can now be traced, in the absence of all those officials who were familiar with such transactions of the day as do not appear upon the records.

7. In a Despatch, dated the 24th July 1850, No. 122, Sir George Anderson reported, that 54 labourers had been introduced into this Colony from the West Coast of Madagascar, and requested instructions as to the expediency of promoting immigration from that quarter.

8. The Secretary of State replied (Despatch No. 16, of 20 August 1850) that he had no objection to the introduction of labourers from Madagascar, which he thought would be attended with much benefit both to that island and to this. In a further Despatch, however (No. 18, of 26 November 1850) he expressed his apprehension that slavery might possibly be encouraged by the opening of this new labour market, and suggested that inquiries should be made as to the circumstances under which the labourers already introduced left Madagascar.

9. In submitting this Despatch for the consideration of Council, Sir James Higginson presented a minute on the subject, which is herewith transmitted, together with the Report of the Immigration Committee of Council, to whom it was referred.

10. It appears by these documents that it was then contemplated to send an expedition to the Western Coast of Madagascar, with the view of ascertaining how immigration from that island could best be established, and the committee recommended that, pending the execution of this project, captains of ships should be permitted to introduce labourers under a licence, provided that they entered into a bond to comply with such regulations as the Government might establish, to prevent abuses in the recruiting of immigrants, and in their treatment, during the voyage.

11. The Regulations of the 23d May 1851 were issued in pursuance of this recommendation, and were transmitted, for the approval of the Secretary of State, by Sir James Higginson's Despatch, No. 84, of 16 May 1851.

12. No objection appears to have been made to them at the time by Her Majesty's Government, and the introduction of Malagash immigrants into Seycheeles under the same provisions was sanctioned by the Secretary of State's Despatch, No 152, of 18 November, in the same year.

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No. 10.

Governor Stevenson to the Right
Hon. H. Labouchere, M. P.
3 November 1857.

* Page 183.

Enclosure 1.

Enclosure 2.

Enclosure 3.

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13. The scheme, originally contemplated in 1851, seems to have been abandoned, partly on account of the difficulty experienced in obtaining a ship of war for the purposes of the expedition, and partly from a hesitation, on the part of the Government, to offend our ally, the queen of the Hoovas, who was known to be opposed to Emigration from Madagascar.

14. It was, indeed, on her account that the order for the final suspension of Malagash immigration was issued, in pursuance of the instructions conveyed by the Secretary of State's Despatch, No. 166, dated the 26th August 1856.

15. Up to the date at which that Despatch was received, licences similar to the one granted to Captain Asp, had, from time to time, been furnished to captains of ships, during a period of more than five years, and 219 immigrants from Madagascar had been thus introduced. These licences have now, of course, been discontinued.

I have, &c.
(signed) *William Stevenson.*

Enclosure 1, in No. 10.

IMMIGRATION FROM MADAGASCAR.

HIS Excellency the Governor directs the publication of the following Regulations for the conduct of immigration from Madagascar, for the information and guidance of the public generally.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 23 May 1851.

(signed) *C. J. Bayley,*
Colonial Secretary.

REGULATIONS.

1. The captains of vessels intending to bring more than 10 natives from Madagascar, shall previously obtain from his Excellency the Governor a licence, under his hand and seal, which shall be renewed for each voyage.

2. The application for a licence shall be accompanied with a certificate of the harbour-master, to the effect that the vessel is a safe one, and suitably fitted out for the voyage; and also a certificate of the protector of immigrants, that the captain is possessed of a sufficient knowledge of the Malagasy language, or has a proper person on board to act as interpreter.

3. Previously to the delivery of the licence the captain of the vessel shall execute and leave in the protector of immigrant's hands a bond, in a penalty of 50 £, that the present regulations shall be observed.

4. He shall admit on board of his vessel, to be conveyed to Mauritius, only such people as embark of their own free will, and he shall, previously to sailing, explain to each immigrant in the day-time, and in presence of the crew, that he is taken to Mauritius to work as a labourer, and what wages he may expect to obtain on his arrival. If, on receiving such explanations, any immigrant objects to proceed, he shall be immediately landed, under a penalty of 5 £ for each man brought to this Colony against his will; such sum to defray his expenses in the Colony, and the charge for his return passage.

5. The captain shall become bound, on receiving his licence, to furnish to the immigrants on board his ship a sufficiency of water, and of such food as is used by the natives of Madagascar; and any proved complaint of insufficiency in this respect shall disqualify the captain for a renewal of his licence.

6. The number of immigrants which a vessel may be licensed to carry shall not exceed one for every two tons register, when bullocks are carried in the hold; or one for each ton register when the vessel carries no bullocks, provided that a sufficient space for one-half of the immigrants to lie in is reserved below the deck.

7. The protector of immigrants shall inspect each vessel on her arrival, and shall cancel the bond given by the captain, if satisfied that these regulations have been observed. In case of any infraction he shall immediately report the circumstance.

8. The immigrants, after the inspection, shall be landed at the dépôt, with three days' provisions. The captain shall report to the protector the sum which he demands for the passage of each man, who shall be held free to choose his employer, and make his own terms, after paying to the captain the price of his passage.

9. Where female immigrants are embarked, a place shall be set apart for them under the deck, which shall not be less than 10 square feet superficies, and 4 feet in height for each.

10. A bonus shall be given out of the colonial funds to such of the captains as shall introduce a proportion of females amongst the adults, as follows: When the proportion is

1 female in 10 adults, 3 £ for each female.

„ 2 in 10 - 4 £ „

„ 3 or more in 10, 5 £ „

the payment to be made on the certificate of the protector, that the regulations have been observed, accompanied by a return of the number of adults of both sexes on board.

Enclosure 2, in No. 10.

MINUTE.

Encl. 2, in No. 10.

1. **DEPENDENT** as Mauritius unfortunately is upon foreign labour for the profitable cultivation of her soil, it appears to me to be highly desirable that every opportunity that may offer for multiplying the channels from whence such indispensable assistance can be drawn, ought to be maturely considered and taken advantage of whenever reasonable hopes of success may be entertained.

2. I have long been of opinion that the neighbouring and populous island of Madagascar presents the natural source of relief from the evil under which we suffer from the absence of a resident labouring population; and the approbation of Her Majesty's Government having been obtained to the attempt to import immigrants from this quarter being made, it behoves the local Government to initiate such measures as may be calculated to give it a fair trial, and, if possible, insure its success.

3. I submit for the information of the Honourable the Legislative Council a second Despatch, which has been received from Her Majesty's Secretary of State upon this subject, the purport of which is, to guard against the possible abuses to which a free and unrestricted immigration from Madagascar might give rise. I feel satisfied that the public feeling here will re-echo the sentiments expressed by Earl Grey; but effective precaution may, I think, be taken to prevent so baneful a result as that adverted to.

The first step towards the accomplishment of our object will be to endeavour to procure accurate information as to the localities on the Madagascar coast from whence suitable immigrants (male and female) would be disposed to come. Similar efforts have, I understand, been made from time to time, but without much success, I believe, from difficulties which may, it is hoped, be at least partially overcome.

4. There is at present here an envoy of King Rabouky, of Bayonna Bay, by name "Oussoof," who holds an authenticated copy of a treaty entered into between his sovereign and Captain Brown, of Her Majesty's ship "Geyser," on the part of the British Government, bearing date the 20th September 1848.

It is believed that he was sent here to procure fire-arms and gunpowder; but he has fallen sick, and is in pecuniary distress. He states, that there is no objection on the part of his master to allow his subjects to resort to Mauritius for work, and he is of opinion that many would be disposed to come if proper facilities were afforded them. This man's services might be turned to account, and I recommend that a small sum be voted for his maintenance until the end of the hurricane season; when I would suggest that one of our Government steamers should be dispatched to the part of the coast in question, touching at other places, as might seem expedient. In her "Oussoof" could have a passage; and I conceive it would also be desirable to send back a few of the natives of Madagascar who have been in the island, and enjoyed the superior advantages within reach of every industrious working man that visits our shores.

They would be able to afford their fellow countrymen all the information respecting their prospects here that they could desire, and their report would naturally command more confidence and credit than that of foreigners or strangers.

5. Being keenly alive to the vast importance of every step that may be taken towards the opening and maintaining a free and more extensive intercourse with Madagascar, whether for purposes of obtaining labour, or of benefiting commerce and trade, and being satisfied that, under a proper system, the introduction of labourers, with an adequate proportion of females from that country, will prove no less beneficial to themselves than to their employers, I conceive it to be my duty to bring the subject under the early deliberation of the Honourable the Legislative Council.

(signed) J. M. Higginson.

Reduit, March 1851.

Enclosure 3, in No. 10.

Encl. 3, in No. 10

REPORT of the Immigration Committee of the Council of Government, on Papers presented to them by His Excellency the Governor.

COMMITTEE:

The Treasurer and Paymaster General, President

The Auditor-General,

Hon. H. Koenig,

Hon. P. Harel,

Hon. W. Forster,

Hon. Sir David Barclay, Bart.,

Hon. G. Fropier.

Read. Minute of his Excellency the Governor, dated 22d March, with a report of a committee appointed by his Excellency to collect information, and to prepare a scheme for an expedition to the western coast of Madagascar, with the object of ascertaining how immigration can best be effected from that island.

2. The chief results of the inquiry instituted by this committee appear to be—

1st. That the inhabitants of the eastern coast of Madagascar are those best qualified to become useful labourers in this Colony; but that the whole of that coast, with the greater

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part of the centre of the island and of the north-western coast, together with some detached places on the western coast, are under the dominion of the Queen of the Hovas, who is not likely to permit emigration from her territories upon terms to which this Government could assent.

3. Second. That those parts of the western coast which are independent of the Hovas are not thickly populated; that the Sakalaves, who constitute the greater part of the population, are described as an independent, warlike, indolent race, not likely to become steady labourers; that the Entalotes, or mixed race between the Sakalaves and Arabs, who are numerous on that coast, are still less likely to be useful immigrants; that there is considerable diversity of opinion as to their disposition to emigrate, as to the proportion of women that could be induced to accompany them, and as to the ports from which they could be obtained.

4. Third. That the exportation of slaves from Madagascar is believed to have ceased altogether; but that, on the contrary, there is a continual introduction of slaves from the Coast of Africa, brought over in Arab dhows, whose owners receive bullocks and rice in exchange for them.

5. Fourth. That the expense of a mission to the several ports on the western coast, at which there is a chance of obtaining a supply of labourers, and to the Comoro Islands, would be about 900 £. or 1,000 £.

6. Upon a careful consideration of the whole question, the Immigration Committee are of opinion that, although it is uncertain whether any important advantages will result from the mission, it is expedient that it should be undertaken. It is desirable that the capabilities of the western coast of Madagascar for furnishing labourers to this colony should be ascertained, and that relations of amity should be established and cultivated with the chiefs. Some benefit to the commerce of the colony may arise from the expedition. It may also have a beneficial effect on the policy of the Hova government, who, in the apprehension of the increase of British influence and British connexions on the western coast, may endeavour to avert it by hastening the restoration of our former relations with itself.

7. The only question is, when and how the expedition should be undertaken, whether immediately, without previous communication with the Secretary of State; whether with such means and agency as the colony can supply, or with the assistance of the Home Government.

8. A reference to the Secretary of State will cause the delay of a year, as the proper season for the expedition will have passed by before any decision can be taken on the matter in England; but it is more important to guard against any misinterpretation of our aims and intentions, and to avoid arousing new susceptibilities in England, than to lose a season, especially as a large supply of labourers may be expected from India in the present year, and the prospect of any supply resulting from this expedition is so uncertain.

9. It would also contribute much to the chance of success, and prevent misconstruction, if one of Her Majesty's ships were employed on the occasion. The presence of a man-of-war would command respect for the mission among the natives, and satisfy the public in England, that no measures would be adopted which would be opposed to the established policy of the Government.

10. The Committee are further informed that a survey of the dependencies of the colony is contemplated. The assistance of a man-of-war is much to be desired for such a purpose. The Home Government might be disposed to render this, and to despatch a vessel hither for the double service.

11. The Committee offer these suggestions for the consideration of his Excellency the Governor. If his Excellency should decide on dispatching the mission this year, the scheme proposed by the Committee of Inquiry appears to be in every way suitable, and the Committee recommend the Council to place at his Excellency's disposal the sum of 1,000 £. for its prosecution.

12. The Committee will now proceed to notice certain incidental questions connected with this subject, either referred to in his excellency's minute, or otherwise suggested.

13. With regard to the existence of any territory on the eastern coast independent of the Hovas, and to the commerce in slaves on the Western, referred to by his Excellency, the Committee have already noticed the result of the inquiries which have been instituted.

14. The Committee doubt the expediency of the Government at any time undertaking the sole charge of immigration from Madagascar, of its establishing agents there, or despatching vessels to procure immigrants. At the same time it should establish such regulations as would prevent, as far as possible, abuses of any kind.

15. The Committee agree with his Excellency that the immigrant, on landing, should be placed under the protector, and that measures should be adopted "to ascertain that the labourers have been obtained in an unobjectionable manner, and that they have come entirely by their own free will and consent; that they should then be taken before a magistrate, as in the case of Indian immigrants, before whom contracts of service, not exceeding three years, will be made between them and their employers." After which the interference of the protector should cease. The immigrants will become free labourers, unshackled, as well as the colony with regard to them, by the regulations affecting immigrants from India, regulations which, the Committee can never cease to assert, benefit the immigrants much less than they injure the colony.

16. The Committee doubt the advantage, and even the practicability, of sending a Government agent in each ship employed to bring immigrants from Madagascar. But they would suggest

suggest certain regulations, with regard to such ships, especially if any delay should occur in the dispatch of the proposed mission. They would recommend that every vessel which leaves this colony after the adoption of such regulations, or which was not dispatched before their publication, for the purpose of introducing immigrants from Madagascar, should be required to be licensed; that the maximum number which she be allowed to carry should be fixed, after a survey by the harbour master; and that the captain should enter into a bond of moderate amount to comply with such conditions and regulations with regard to the recruiting of the immigrants, and their treatment during the passage, as the Governments shall establish to prevent abuses, and the risk of a consequent stoppage of the immigration.

16. With regard to wages, to which subject his Excellency has particularly called the attention of the Committee, they are of opinion that the Government should interfere as little as possible. It is not in the interest of the colony that Malgache immigrants should find themselves worse off than Indian immigrants, or any portion of that class of the population to which they will belong; and the Malgaches are usually very keen with respect to wages and money matters generally. The best and simplest course seems to be, to enact that no agreement as to wages, made out of the colony, shall be binding.

17. One point remains for consideration; the assistance to be given by the Government to this immigration carried on by private parties. If the Government do not interfere, and allow the parties who introduce them to make their own bargains with employers, the immigrants will have no choice of their masters, and the competition for their services may lead to extravagant charges upon the planters, as happened in 1843-44, before the Government took upon itself the entire management of the immigration from India. And inasmuch as the introduction of labourers from Madagascar, if it take place to any extent, will diminish in a corresponding ratio the demand for a supply from India, and the consequent burthen upon the public, it would seem desirable to pay a bounty for their introduction, which should be repaid by the parties engaging them; the amount not to exceed in any case the average cost of introducing labourers from India, and to be calculated upon the actual probable cost of their introduction, holding out some additional encouragement for the introduction of women and families. Until the Government has the means of ascertaining this cost, it might be arranged that the employer should pay through the hands of the Government the amount demanded by the party who introduced the immigrants.

18. The Committee trust that they have not overlooked any point upon which his Excellency has requested their opinion, or desired information.

(signed) *Rawson W. Rawson,*
President.

Council Chamber, 17 April 1851.

— No. 11. —

(No. 40.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Stevenson* to the Right Honourable
H. Labouchere, M.P.

Mauritius, 23 December 1857.
(Received, 22 February 1858.)

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch, dated the 5th October, No. 37, giving cover to a communication from the Foreign Office, relative to an outrage committed on board the bark "Joker," and again calling for explanation of the fact that emigrants were being embarked on board that vessel, so lately as the month of May last, although my predecessor had stated, in his Despatch, No. 175, of the 14th October 1856, that he had issued a proclamation prohibiting Malagash immigration.

2. You have already been apprised, by my Despatch, No. 19, of the 3d November, of which a duplicate is transmitted by this packet, that the commander of the "Joker" received his license before your instructions, for the suspension of Malagash immigration, reached the local Government, and, consequently, before the issue of Sir James Higginson's prohibitory proclamation; it only remains for me, therefore, to state that, by the terms of Captain Aps' license, he was authorised to make a voyage to Madagascar, the Comoro Islands, Zanzibar, and any other ports or places, on the coast of Africa, where there is a resident British agent, and thence to convey Malagasy, or other immigrants, to Port Louis, or the Seychelles Islands, for the purpose of being hired as labourers in this colony.

3. His license then was still in force in the month of May last, as he had not returned to Mauritius, and had, therefore, not completed his voyage, but he was acting in contravention of the conditions upon which that license was granted, in attempting to procure immigrants against their will.

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No. 11.

Governor *Stevenson*, to the Right
Hon. *H. Labouchere, M.P.*
23 December 1857.

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4. As I observe that, by my predecessor's Despatch, No. 26, of the 6th February 1856, you have already been furnished with six copies of the form of license alluded to, it appears unnecessary to have it reprinted for the purpose of transmitting some additional copies herewith.

I have, &c.
(signed) *William Stevenson.*

* Page 283.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I have had the honour to receive your Despatch, No. 58,* of 22d October, on the same subject, your instructions in which shall be attended to.

5 January 1858.

— No. 12. —

(No. 19.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Stevenson* to the Right Honourable
H. Labouchere, M.P.

Mauritius, 13 January 1858.

(Received 5 April 1858.)

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your information, a copy of a petition which I lately received from a person of the name of William Ferrier, in which, while disclosing the circumstances connected with his own case, he mentions others which ought properly to be made known to the Government, as they have reference to the stratagems that appear to be used for entrapping the ignorant natives of some of the islands of the Pacific, which, I believe, are in the possession of the English, and within Her Majesty's dominions, into service in the island of Bourbon.

2. That petition I placed, for the purpose of investigation, in the hands of the Sub-Procureur General, a copy of whose opinion I enclose, as well as copies of the depositions or voluntary statements made, in the course of such investigation, by Ferrier and other passengers on board Captain Wilson's ships.

3. I also transmit a copy of a letter from Monsieur Manés, "le Directeur de l'Intérieur" of the island of Bourbon, and a copy of a charter-party, which seems to have resulted from the permission granted by such letter; both of which documents Captain Wilson, when informed of the petitioner's application, put in, as his exculpation, as the Procureur General states; and, in order to show that he was simply the irresponsible servant of the charterer, whose agent or supercargo, sanctioned by the French Government, was on board.

4. These documents appear to show that, for the purpose of making the first attempt at procuring immigrants from the islands of the Pacific, for the service of the island of Bourbon, an authority was given, under certain restrictions which are contained in the letter from the Director of the Interior, of the 27th October 1856; one of which restrictions is, that there should be an agent of the Government on board, who should take care that the immigrants clearly comprehended the nature of the service in which they were to embark; which duty, if faithfully performed, might be followed by no improper consequences, but which, if entrusted to an interested and designing person, might be very fatally exercised.

5. It would appear that, in pursuance of this permission, the charter-party of the 15th May last was entered into at Sydney, and no doubt the "John d'Almagne," who is named in that charter-party, is the person who was fixed upon as the "délégué," or responsible person, by whom this especial duty of supervision was to be performed on the part of the French Government.

6. How he performed that duty is best made known by the statements of Ferrier, and the other persons who have made their voluntary depositions; and it would appear from those statements, if true, which I have no reason to doubt, that under colour of French Government authority, but wholly in defiance of its conditions, a nefarious traffic has been commenced by these designing people for the purpose of entrapping some of the ignorant natives of those islands into a service wholly foreign to their habits and pursuits, and of the intention to draw them into which they appear to have been kept in perfect ignorance up to the moment

No. 12.
Governor *Stevenson*, to the Right
Hon. *H. Labouchere*, M.P.
13 January 1858.

Enclosure 1.

Enclosure 2.

Enclosure 3.

Enclosure 4.

Enclosure 5.

moment of their being landed at the Island of Bourbon, and engaged to the planters, at a price, as labourers there.

7. Beyond receiving the statements of Ferrier and his companions, I have no means, of course, of ascertaining the truth or falsehood of these remarkable proceedings, but I have no reason to doubt their correctness; and there is a general correspondence in the statements of all the witnesses, which helps to confirm those of Ferrier, who acted as interpreter, and who, therefore, best knows what representations he made to the natives by desire of the commander or the "délégué."

8. At the same time I have no reason whatever to believe that the Government of the island of Bourbon can have had the slightest suspicion that such frauds had been practised upon them, and such improper use made of their authority. And, no doubt, that Government will be glad of the opportunity of investigating this matter, and preventing for the future any such designing evasions of their Government regulations on the subject of immigration.

9. These disclosures will serve to show to the French Government the danger of embarking in this new field of distant migration, without assuring themselves of the fidelity of persons who profess to act as their agents; for, however anxious that Government may be to preserve their regulations as to immigration in their perfect integrity, wherever the sources of migration may be; yet, if the delegation be entrusted to inferior persons, who are to employ still inferior agents under them, the mischief that may result from the mistaken employment of designing agents might draw more discredit upon their Government regulations than they deserve to bear.

10. With these few remarks upon this ex-parte case, I transmit the documents in question, and I have only to add that, in accordance with the suggestions of the Procureur-General, I have transmitted copies of the documents, through the Colonial Secretary to the Secretary of the Government at Sydney, in order that any precautions may be used there, through the French consul or otherwise, for arresting the further abuse of the authority which seems to have been given by the French Government.

I have, &c.
(signed) William Stevenson.

P.S.—I have considered it right to communicate these circumstances to the Governor of Bourbon, in a letter of which the enclosed is a copy, in order that he may make any investigation into the matter that he may think proper, preparatory to any diplomatic inquiries that may be made on the subject, and in the hope that he may take the opportunity of putting an end to such improper traffic in labour, and of making an example of those who may have betrayed the confidence of his government; and I have also personally informed the French consul of the facts, and of my intention to communicate them to the Governor of Réunion. There has not yet been time for me to receive a reply from the Governor; when received it shall be forwarded.

(signed) W. Stevenson.

Enclosure 6.

Enclosure 1, in No. 12.

Encl. 1, in No. 12.

To His Excellency William Stevenson, Esq., Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Mauritius and Dependencies, &c. &c. &c.

Your Excellency,

THE humble petition of William Ferrier, late of Byron's Island, now of Port Louis, respectfully Showeth,—THAT, on or about the month of August last, Captain Joseph Wilson, of the English barque "Sutton," called at Byron's Island, where your petitioner and his family resided since 16 years, and induced your petitioner to ship himself on board the said barque as interpreter, to the effect of enabling him, the said Captain J. Wilson, to gather cocoanuts from all the neighbouring islets.

2. That, with petitioner, the said captain took on board his said barque six natives of the said Byron's Island, composing the crew of your petitioner's canoe.

3. That it was only to be serviceable to Captain Wilson, that petitioner, with his crew, consented so to embark on board the barque "Sutton."

4. That the express condition and agreement made with the said Captain Wilson were that, as soon as he would have effected his object, to wit, of gathering cocoanuts, he would land your petitioner and his crew on the said Byron's Island.

5. That, at Pern and Clark's Island, the said J. Wilson induced about 65 male natives to

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ship themselves on board the "Sutton" for the same object as above, and, under the express condition to land them back on their respective islands in a short time.

6. That, instead of acting up to such agreement, the said captain made for Mauritius, where we arrived last month, and again made for Bourbon, in 24 hours.

7. That, on our passage out to Mauritius, petitioner strongly remonstrated against the captain's conduct, whereupon he tried to hush up the matter, made petitioner drink liquors, and when he was almost insensible, caused him to sign his articles as steward and seaman. The chief of his crew resisted all the captain's efforts to make him sign the said articles.

8. That, on our arrival at Bourbon, the said Captain Wilson landed the said 65 natives, who were engaged to certain planters for the consideration of 40 l. a head, and sold the said English barque "Sutton" for 1,600 l., as petitioner was told.

9. That your petitioner having applied to the said Captain Wilson for his maintenance at Port Louis, his passage back, board, and lodging, from this Colony to Byron's Island, and for a compensation for the trouble and misery he has subjected your petitioner to, the said Captain Wilson flatly declined to afford any redress to your petitioner.

10. That, having applied to the marine magistrate of Port Louis, he has raised doubts on the power he has to entertain your petitioner's case, and ultimately refused to admit your petitioner to sue *in formâ pauperis*.

11. That your petitioner, being altogether destitute at Mauritius, where he lives on charity, has not therefore been able to enter his complaint against Captain Wilson.

12. Wherefore your humble petitioner craves your Excellency's interference in this case to have redress against the said Captain Wilson.

And your petitioner, as in duty, will ever pray.

Port Louis,
8 December 1857.

(signed) William Ferrier.

Encl. 2, in No. 12.

Enclosure 2, in No. 12.

ASSUMING the facts stated in this petition to be true, I do not think that the master of the barque "Sutton" (Wilson) has rendered himself in any way amenable to criminal proceedings here. It is not a case of slave dealing; it is at most a case of engaging men to labour under representations false and fraudulent, both as to the place where the labour was to be performed and as to the duration of the term of engagement. But it would rather appear from the charterparty of the ship (a copy of which is produced by Wilson in his exculpation) that he merely chartered the ship to a third party, at whose risk the speculation was carried on, and it is clear that the whole proceeding was sanctioned by the Government of Reunion. As regards Ferrier's individual case, it appears that, in fact, he signed the ship's articles, whatever may be the truth as to his condition at the time when he so signed the articles; he appears to have subsequently received his pay in full when the ship was paid off and sold at Reunion, and that he was, along with a part of the crew, sent on here free of expense by Wilson. I do not think, therefore, that he has made out any case for the interference of the Government; his remedy, if any, is by civil action against Wilson. It would, I think, be advisable to send a copy of this complaint and of the evidence which has been taken to the New South Wales Government. It may be that they may find means to prevent a recurrence of such abuses.

(signed) Sholto James Douglas,
S. P. and Advocate General.

5 January 1858.

Encl. 3, in No. 12.

Enclosure 3, in No. 12.

WILLIAM FERRIER.

HAS resided on Byron's Island (King's Mills Group, on the line, north-east of Australia.) Has been there 16 years. Captain Wilson, of English barque "Sutton," arrived at Byron's Island in August last. He engaged me as an interpreter to procure natives for him. He was to go about amongst the islands, to procure his complement of men, and to return in three days to Byron's Island to land me. An American, named William Meadows, who was also residing on Byron's Island, came on board also, in the same boat with me. We both went on shore again; I went to tell my family that I should be absent for a few days. We embarked after this willingly, I as interpreter, and Meadows worked on board as seaman. Some 12 natives of Byron's Island came on board, and went below of their own accord. No one asked them to come on board, or to remain on board. No one prevented their landing again. I believe that they were under the impression that the ship would return again in three days, as they had heard me tell my family so, when ashore. The "Sutton" left Byron's Island in the evening of the day that she arrived, thus taking away myself, Meadows, and about a dozen natives. We sailed for Pirhoot Island, one of the same group, distant 28 miles from Byron's Island. We arrived there next morning. A lot of natives came off in canoes. By the captain's desire I spoke to the natives, and asked whether

whether any of them were willing to come to make cocoa-nut oil for the captain, on an island a short distance to the west. I told them that the captain would bring them back in 10 or 12 months at the furthest; that they would be paid 1 lb. of tobacco or 1 dollar per month for their trouble. About 20 natives embarked willingly, and we sailed that night. We arrived next morning at Clarke's Island, one of the same group, about 40 miles west of Pirhoot. I spoke to the natives there as I had done at Pirhoot. About 20 natives embarked at Clarke's Island on the same promises as had been made to the natives of Pirhoot. We sailed same evening to southward, the captain saying he was going to take me back to my island. We beat for 24 hours against contrary winds and currents, and the captain then said he could not spare any more time to take me back, and he stood to the west for about four or five days, when we reached the Solomon's Group of Islands. The men of King's Mill Group had been accustomed to ship, as they did on the "Sutton," for the purpose of making cocoa-nut oil. It was usual to bring them back again. There was a Frenchman on board the "Sutton," called Captain Dumaine; he heard all that the captain told me to say to the natives. The King's Mill Group belong to the British Government. There is no Government officer on any of the islands. The men were not confined on board. They were well treated. Besides the captain and Captain Dumaine, there were two mates, a carpenter, and six seamen besides myself and the Yankee. The crew had each of them a cutlass. The officers of the ship had each a musket. Two muskets were put in the cabin that was occupied by the Yankee and myself. The captain gave them to us to be used in case of the natives rising. There were plenty of muskets, cutlasses, carpenter's axes, adzes, and gunpowder in canister in the captain's state room. He said that these were to purchase ponies in Torres Straits. There were two swivels mounted at the quarter of the ship. Before arriving at the Solomon's Group, the captain said that I must sign articles, as he was afraid of falling in with a man-of-war. I do not know whether he asked the Yankee to sign articles. I refused to sign articles, and asked him to take me back to Byron's Island according to promise. He asked me to go with him, as interpreter, to the island where he was to make cocoa-nut oil. He never told me the name of the island. I said I would go if he would touch at Byron's Island, and let me take my children. He asked me repeatedly to sign articles, and I refused; but one morning Captain Dumaine having given me two tumblers of rum to drink, the captain induced me to sign. The captain asked the natives who had embarked to sign articles to work for 10 or 12 months making cocoa-nut oil. Captain Dumaine was present. I acted as interpreter. He said to me that if he fell in with a man-of-war and the men had not signed these articles, he might be taken to be a slaver. The natives all touched the captain's pen by way of signing. I explained to the men, by the captain's order, what they were signing. I told them it was an engagement to work for 10 or 12 months at the utmost, making oil; at the end of which time they were to be taken back to the places from whence they came. I was engaged as interpreter, steward, and seaman. I was to have 5 l. a month. The natives were to have 1 lb. tobacco, or one dollar a month. This took place on the morning that I had been drinking, and in the presence of Captain Dumaine. It occurred after we had left King's Mill Group, and just before arriving at Solomon's Group, whilst out of sight of land. I did not read the articles or engagement which was signed. I cannot read very well. I was not offered the perusal of them.

We arrived at Solomon's Group about six days after leaving King's Mill Group. We stopped there six days cruizing about amongst the different islands. We took 12 natives from two islands. I could not speak the language of the islanders. I do not think that any one on board could speak their language. The captain landed here two men belonging to Clarke's Island and Pirhoot. He landed them because they were insubordinate. They regretted having left their native islands, and they told the other natives that they intended to kill the captain and me; one of them was arrested as he was coming aft with a knife in his hand. I do not know what he was going to do with the knife, but the natives told me that he was going to kill us. Some of the natives caught hold of him, and he stabbed one of them with his knife. Both these men were made fast and kept below with the others until we reached the Solomon's Group, where they were landed. The other natives could have released them if they had chosen, as they were at first made fast with cord. They were afterwards made fast with a chain and padlock. The men who were taken on board at Solomon's Group appeared to embark of their own free-will. I did not see any force used. The captain went ashore at the Solomon's Group to look for copper, but did not find any. We sailed for Torres Straits. The captain tried to procure ponies at one of the islands there, in exchange for muskets, powder, and axes, &c. &c., but he could not succeed. He only got one poney and one buffalo. From there we came straight to Mauritius, where we anchored outside the Bell Buoy for a day, after which we proceeded to Bourbon. About 60 natives were landed and left at Bourbon. I heard ashore that they were engaged for five years, and that the captain got 40 l. a head for them. The ship was sold there, and the crew paid off and discharged. I got about 22 l. The captain paid the passage of myself and crew up to Mauritius. Six of the natives who embarked with me from the same canoe at Byron's Island, on the promise of being sent back in three days, were also sent up here. The captain has found a passage for the Yankee, and for these six natives to go back again, whether to Sydney or Byron's Island I do not know.

(signed) *William Ferrier.*

I have been resident on Byron's Island for about 16 months. On 12th August last the English barque "Sutton," Captain Wilson, arrived there. I went off to her with Ferrier. Captain Wilson asked me if I could procure him some natives to make cocoa-nut oil for 10 months, on an island to the westward. He would not tell me what island, saying he did not wish to let every one know his business. He promised to land Ferrier and myself as well as six natives who came off in the canoe with us, in three days' time on the place from whence we came. We procured 15 natives from Byron's Island (not including my boat's crew). They were told that they were to go and make cocoa-nut oil on an island, and were to be brought back to Byron's Island in 10 months. We went to Pirhoot and got 16 or 17 men there in the same manner and upon the same promises. From thence we went to Clarke's Island, where we got 13 or 14 men in a similar manner. All these men came on board willingly upon hearing the terms of the agreement. Ferrier and myself acted as interpreters, and translated what Captain Wilson and Captain Dumaine told us to say. I do not know what was Captain Dumaine's business on board, but he seemed to be much the same as the captain of the ship. On leaving Clarke's Island, Captain Wilson tried to go back to Byron's Island, for the purpose, as he said, of landing Ferrier, myself, and my boat's crew. He beat for two days against a head wind and strong current; he then told me that he could not put me back on Byron's Island, as the wind was against us, and said I had better come on with him. I asked where he was going. He then said he was going first to look for some copper, of which he showed me samples, and that if he did not find any copper he would go and make cocoa-nut oil as he had told me before. I persisted in asking to be put back on Byron's Island. The captain, however, bore away to west, Byron's Island then being to east of our position. The captain shortly after asked me to sign articles. I positively refused. I believe that Ferrier did sign articles one morning when he was half drunk. The captain, to my knowledge, had given Ferrier some drink on this occasion. All the natives, with the exception of my boat's crew, were induced to sign by touching the captain's pen in a large book; Captain Dumaine was then present. I do not know what they signed. I had been asleep, but woke up, and came into the cabin in time to see the last eight or ten sign. I asked what they had been made to sign, and got an evasive answer. I then told my boat's crew not to sign, and they did not do so. The captain said if we did not all sign he might get into trouble in the event of falling in with a man-of-war. Two of the natives became quite crazy when they found that they were being taken away altogether from their native country; they became violent, and it was found necessary to make them fast. None of the others were confined in any way or ill-treated. There were quantities of arms in the cabin and state room, about 30 or 40 loaded muskets, two swivels on the ship's quarters, and the crew had each man a cutlass. The captain said to me one day, there is a musket a piece for you and Ferrier, pointing to two in the cabin. I told him I did not want them. There were plenty of axes in cases, also a case of muskets. There were cutlasses and pistols in the cabin. I do not know what they were for.

We went to the Solomon's Group. Captain Dumaine, the mate, a boat's crew, and some 10 natives landed, and went to search for copper. They came off in the afternoon without any copper, saying, that they had been afraid to go into the interior, as they had been surrounded by natives. We took on board 13 natives at this group; some of these natives could speak a word or two of English. None of us could speak their language. The captain conversed with them by signs, and gave them pipes and tobacco. They appeared to embark willingly. Captain Dumaine spoke to them; he appeared to understand a word or two of their tongue. We landed with two crazy men at this group, and sailed for Torres Strait. The captain tried to purchase ponies at some of the islands, in exchange for muskets, powder, &c., but could not succeed. When the captain was bargaining at Sabre Island with a man for ponies, he said he should want two men for each poney, to take care of them. The man answered, that one man was enough to take care of two ponies. The captain got one poney and a bullock; that was all he got. He sailed for Mauritius, where he arrived in October last. He anchored outside for seven hours, and then went to Bourbon, where he landed all the natives, except my boat's crew. He wanted to dispose of my boat's crew, but I told him I would get him hung if he did. When the doctor came off at Bourbon I told him the circumstances under which the natives had been embarked. The captain told the doctor not to listen to me, as I was drunk. I heard that the natives were engaged for five years, and that the captain got 40 *l.* a head for them. The ship was sold at Bourbon, and the crew paid off, and sent up to Mauritius. I received 20 *l.* as soon as I landed here. I went to the American consul, and told him everything. He gave me a letter to Mr. Slade. I went to Mr. Slade, and asked that I and my boat's crew might be sent back to Byron's Island, and that the captain might be made to pay me damages for having taken me away. I said I wished to bring this matter before a magistrate. Mr. Slade told me in the captain's presence that the captain was willing to compromise the matter, and recommended me to accept a compromise, as law business was very uncertain, and I might be detained here by legal proceedings for a long time. The captain did not speak to me. The compromise offered was, that the board in this island of myself and boat's crew should be paid; that a passage should be found for us to Sydney, and from thence to Byron's Island; that all our expenses at Sydney should be paid, and that 6 *l.* should be paid me. Mr. Slade wrote out three or four documents that I refused to sign. He drew up a fourth one, which I signed. There were some blanks left in the paper, which I signed. The draft of an agreement was read to me, which I agreed to. The copy which I produce, and which I signed,

I signed, was never read to me. I signed it in presence of my consul. My boat's crew have been put on board the barque "Fernand," to be taken to Sydney. This vessel is advertised to go to Singapore; she is going to Sydney. I was told that my passage was paid on board the "Fernand." I went on board this vessel yesterday, and the mate said he knew nothing about the matter.

CHRISTIERN MILLER (a Dane), late A.B. on the Barque "Sutton."

THE barque "Sutton" took natives as passengers from some islands of the King's Mill Group. Ferrier was interpreter, also the American (Meadows). I do not know what instructions were given to the interpreters by the captain, or Mr. Delmayne. I do not know what the interpreters told the natives. It was talked of amongst the crew that we were going to the westward to make cocoa-nut oil, and that the natives were engaged to work there for 10 months. I do not know whether the captain said anything of the kind. I never heard either him or Mr. Delmayne say so. The natives were well treated on board, and appeared happy and contented as far as I could judge, not knowing their language. Two of them went mad during the voyage, and it was necessary to make them fast. The captain landed them on two different islands; one of the islands was New Georgia. I do not recollect the name of the other island. I do not know that the natives signed any agreement. I very seldom went into the cabin, as my business was forward. I did not know until after I had arrived at Bourbon that Ferrier was borne on the ship's articles. I do not know when he signed the articles. I never heard that the captain was afraid of meeting with a ship of war. I do not think that the natives were taken away against their will.

(signed) *Christiern Miller.*

JOHN THOMPSON, late carpenter on board the "Sutton," was examined by me on board the "Blue Rock," a vessel now in the harbour, in which he has shipped as carpenter. He corroborated the foregoing statements in most of the particulars. He says that he managed to pick up some words of the language spoken by the natives, and that he is convinced that they did not know where they were being taken to. They said that they were to be taken back in 12 months. He believes that Ferrier knew perfectly well where the men were to be taken to, but cannot say what he told them. The natives all, with the exception of the boat's crew of the American (Meadows), signed in an emigration printed book, which was put on board on purpose. This man at first was not disposed to give any information, unless he knew whether it was to be used for or against Captain Wilson. On my telling him that he would be summoned before a magistrate, and compelled to state what he knew, he gave me the above information.

Charles Wilkie, late seaman on board the "Sutton," now on board the "Blue Rock," does not know what promises were held out to the natives, nor where the ship was going. He confirms the story told by the other witnesses in nearly every other particular.

(signed) *W. H. Marsh,*
Crown Solicitor.

16 December 1857.

Enclosure 4, in No. 12.

Encl. 4, in No. 12.

Sir,

St. Denis, 27 October 1856.

IN answer to your inquiries, I have the honour to inform you that the Administration authorises you to make a trial of introducing into Réunion labourers recruited at Islands in the Pacific Ocean.

You represent that not being sufficiently sure as to the result of such trial, to be enabled to charter vessels here, you wish the right being accorded you of employing foreign bottoms, to be chartered on the spot for a first and second voyage.

Such authorisation is also granted you, with the proviso that you will come to an understanding with the Consul of France at Sydney for the regularity of your operations, and particularly with regard to the selection of a delegate, whose presence on board is obligatory.

The fundamental conditions imposed on immigration by the legislation ruling that matter are as follows: That, besides the obligation of placing a delegate of the Administration on board, the labourers must be in a state of freedom at the place where they are being recruited; that they have a full knowledge of the clauses and conditions of the contracts of service they are called to enter upon, and that they fully and voluntarily consent to accept the same.

The Administration writes to the Consul a letter with this purport and meaning, requesting him, for the good of the colony, to facilitate the success of this enterprise.

Accept the assurance of my distinguished regard.

(signed) *Ed. Manès,*
Directeur de l'Intérieur.

A Monsieur Chateau, St. Denis.

MAURITIUS.

Encl. 5, in No. 12.

Enclosure 5, in No. 12.

CHARTER PARTY.

Sydney, 15 May 1857.

It is this day mutually agreed between Joseph Wilson, master of the ship "Sutton," of Sydney, burthen per register 282 tons, now lying in Sydney Cove, and Didier Nerina Foubert, that the said ship being tight, staunch, and strong, and every way fitted for the voyage, shall with all convenient speed proceed to the South Sea Islands, and there receive on board as many male and female immigrants as shall be engaged by Mr. John Dalmaine, who proceeds in the said ship cabin passenger free of expenses. The number of immigrants not to exceed in all 370, not exceeding what she can reasonably stow and carry, over and above her tackle, apparel, provisions, water, and furniture, and exclusive of the poop or cabins, which shall remain for the use and benefit of the captain and owners. The said Joseph Wilson to provide all necessary dunnage and ballast; and being so loaded, shall therewith proceed to the port of St. Denis, Island of Réunion (Bourbon), or so near thereto as she may safely get, and deliver the same, on being paid freight, as follows: The sum of 3,000 £ sterling per calendar month, from the 1st day of June 1857, until the day of the delivery of the said immigrants at St. Denis: the said freight to be paid in cash, free of commission or interest, 15 days after the delivery of the immigrants; the act of God, the Queen's enemies, fire, and all and every other dangers and accidents of the seas, rivers, and navigation, of what nature and kind soever, during the said voyage always excepted. The freight to be paid on unloading and delivery of the cargo.

The charterer to supply the provision water and water-casks for the immigrants.

In default of the freight being paid, as above specified, demurrage beyond that time to be paid by the charterer, 8 £ sterling per running day.

Penalty for non-performance of this agreement 1,000 £ sterling.

Encl. 6, in No. 12.

Enclosure 6, in No. 12.

Monsieur le Gouverneur,

Rédit, Mauritius, 28 January 1858.

I HAVE the honour to bring to your notice a circumstance which has lately been brought to mine by the documents which I enclose for your perusal, connected with the mode in which Indians from the islands of the Pacific have recently been introduced as labourers into the Island of Réunion.

2. I lately received a petition, of which the enclosed is a copy, from a person of the name of William Ferrier, a British subject resident in Byron's Island, in which he complained of a fraud that had been practised upon him by a person of the name of Wilson, who commanded a small vessel which traded for labourers among those islands; and in stating his case, he made allusion to the manner in which some of the natives of those islands had been entrapped into that vessel, under false pretences, and afterwards conveyed to Réunion as labourers.

3. Upon receiving that petition, I directed a further investigation into the subject, as it fortunately happened that, besides Ferrier, Wilson himself, and some of the sailors of his ship, were in this island, and the information that they gave is contained in the examinations, of which I enclose copies, and to which I request your attention.

4. In the course of inquiries which were made of Wilson on the subject, he disallowed all responsibility in the matter, and, to exculpate himself, he delivered a copy of a letter from Monsieur Manés, "le Directeur de l'Intérieur" of your island, to M. Chateau, of St. Denis, authorising the embarkation in this new field of immigration; and also a copy of a charter party, entered into at Sydney, in pursuance of the authority given by such letter. The "George Dalmaine," therein named, being, I assume, the authorised délégué of your Government, I beg to send you copies of these two documents.

5. You will perceive, on perusal of these papers, that under false representations with regard to their destination, and the object of their engagement, conveyed to the men through the interpretation of Ferrier, by direction of Wilson, and with the acquiescence of Dalmaine, a considerable number of ignorant natives of certain islands of the Pacific, within Her Britannic Majesty's dominions, were induced to embark for the pretended purpose of gathering cocoa nuts on the neighbouring islands, and under the promise of being taken back to their own homes within 12 months; whereas, in point of fact, the object really was to convey them to Réunion, where, according to the statements of these witnesses, their services have been distributed among the planters for money; and the documents furnished by Wilson show that all this was apparently done under the sanction of your Government, although I have every reason to conclude that it was so done in disobedience to your instructions.

6. I have felt it my duty to transmit copies of these documents to Her Majesty's Government, by whom some inquiries will, no doubt, be made with reference to their contents.

7. But

7. But I think it equally due to you that I should transmit the same information to yourself, in order that, while the transaction is fresh, you may have an opportunity of directing any investigation into the matter that you may think proper.

8. If the statements of these men prove to be true, which I have no reason to doubt, I am sure you will regret as much as I do that any wrong use should have been made by the subordinate agents of your Government of the licence conceded by your Minister's official letter of the 27th October, under which, subject to certain very proper restrictions, permission appears to have been given to make trial of this entirely new field of immigration.

9. I have no other object in making you this communication than to enable you, without delay, to make any further inquiries about the matter that you may think advisable, preparatory to any information that you may be asked by-and-by to furnish; and I have no doubt that you will avail yourself of the occasion of preventing any possible recurrence of such practices for the future.

With every assurance of my high esteem and consideration,

I have, &c.
(signed) William Stevenson.

To his Excellency the Governor of Bourbon,
or Officer administering the Government.

— No. 13. —

(No. 22.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Stevenson* to the Right Honourable
H. Labouchere, M.P., &c. &c.

Mauritius, 30 January 1858.

(Received, 5 April 1858.)

Sir,

(Answered, No 47, 26 July 1858, p. 288.)

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your Despatch, No. 53*, of the 17th October, conveying Her Majesty's confirmation of the Ordinance No. 22 of 1857†, and instructing me to forward a copy of the Memorandum of the Protector of Immigrants, required by Sir Frederic Rogers' report upon that Ordinance, and which, it appears, was omitted to be forwarded with my predecessor's Despatch of the 12th August, but is now transmitted, according to your desire.

2. In pursuance of your instructions, I have proclaimed the confirmation of that law, without noticing for the present, as suggested by Sir Frederic Rogers, the point of difference between my predecessor and the Board of Agriculture, upon the subject of some of the clauses which provide for the reimbursement, to an immigrant's first employer, of a portion of the expense of importation, in case of his not retaining the immigrant's services during the whole period of his industrial residence. I shall, however, keep that point in view while watching the operation of the law, and if any amendments are found necessary, they can easily be made when the proper time arrives.

3. There appears to me to be much reason in the claims of the planters to such reimbursement, where they are disappointed of the immigrants' continuing services during the five years of industrial residence, and where, after full payment of the whole expense of importation, those services are transferred to others.

4. Where immigrants are imported, and their expenses paid by the Government, there is an implied reciprocal obligation between the Government and the immigrant, that, on the one hand, the Government will provide profitable employment during the five years of industrial residence; and, on the other hand, that the immigrant will give his industrial services, for agricultural purposes or otherwise, during those five years. While, therefore, the immigrant has a right to be provided with such employment, there arises, on the part of the Government, a lien upon his services during his industrial residence.

5. And if a planter employs an immigrant from the dépôt, and pays the full expense of his importation, it appears to me that he thereby stands in the place of the Government, and acquires a lien upon the services of the immigrant during those five years; so that if, at the end of any first contract of shorter duration,

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the

No. 13.
Governor Stevenson to the Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.
30 January 1858.

* Page 271.
† Vide Appendix, Page 335.

Enclosure 1.

MAURITIUS.

the immigrant should transfer the remainder of his industrial service to a new employer, the first employer should not only be entitled to the stamp duty applicable to the second contract, but to so much beyond it as would equal the rateable, but easily ascertained, proportion of the expense which he had in the first instance paid, with reference to the duration of the whole industrial residence.

6. And so also ought the second employer to have the same lien and right of resort against any subsequent employer for a rateable return of the money which he had been called upon to refund. To some such effect as this, amendments may by-and-by be made if pressed for by the planters.

7. Indeed, I think it would be wholly unobjectionable if, under this law, the contracts were permitted to be for the entire five years of industrial residence, as has been often desired by the planters, provided they be entered into at the entire option and free consent of the immigrants, and be determinable at any time after the second or third year, upon two or three months' notice on either side; in which case the only formality would be the transfer of the articles, through the intervention of a magistrate, to the new employer, who would be selected or accepted by the immigrant himself, and who would repay to the first employer such rateable portion of the immigrant's passage and expenses; and, in case of decided ill-treatment by the master, the contract might be cancelled, and the immigrant re-engaged, without any reimbursement to the employer.

8. If the five-years' engagement be much pressed by the planters, and meet with your acquiescence, some such facilities for determining it might render it perfectly secure, and be very properly imposed for the protection of the immigrant. At the same time, my conviction is, that very few, if any, of the immigrants would enter into the five-years' engagement, as their predilections are decidedly favourable to short terms, and they far prefer contracts renewable year by year to those of longer duration. The fact, however, is that the determinable quality of the extended engagement I suggest reduces it, after the first two or three years, to a continuing contract for the period of notice only; a favourable condition which the Indian would soon know how to appreciate, and use to his advantage, if desired.

9. The first step which I have taken in consequence of the confirmation of this law has been to authorise as free and full an importation of labour, sanctioned for this year by the laws, estimates, and regulations now in force as may be consistent with due precautions and security; because I am satisfied that, with the continuing and increasing demand for labour, and the abundant means the planters possess of paying a remunerating price for it, rather than jeopardise their crops by submitting to a deficiency, the best mode of alleviating the difficulties now prevailing with respect to newly arrived labourers, will be by augmenting their numbers as speedily as possible, and thereby to a greater degree equalising the supply with the demand. Until that is done, or some other means can be devised for securing to the planter the allotted labour that he requires, and which the law professes to give him, but practically fails to confer, the scenes of discord that result from the employment of recruiters, or rather the self-constituted agency of crimps, and their undue influence, in many instances, over the Indians, and the struggles that take place at the dépôt for securing the services of the immigrants, can never effectually be prevented.

10. The allusions made in the correspondence now under reply, and in the report of Sir Frederic Rogers, to the Ordinances No. 15 of 1854, and No. 12 of 1855, induce me to take the present opportunity of entering more at large into the subject of the much-vexed question that has been anxiously agitated here with reference to the introduction of the 6th clause of No. 12 of 1855, which gives the immigrant, on his arrival in this country, the full and free selection of his own employer, notwithstanding he may have been expressly engaged in India for the service of a particular planter, by whom the whole expense of his introduction has been fully defrayed.

11. And I shall do so with reference to a communication I have received from the Chamber of Agriculture, and another which I have since received from its sister society, the Chamber of Commerce; of both of which, as well as of my replies to those communications, I have the honour to enclose copies, to which I shall presently more particularly refer.

12. But,

Enclosure 2.

Enclosure 3.

Enclosure 4.

Enclosure 5.

12. But, before doing so, I must premise that I have, for some time past, been much engaged in inquiries into the working of the immigration scheme, and the operation of the various Ordinances and Orders in Council which relate to the subject, with the view, in the first place, of rectifying the present objectionable mode of distributing and employing the immigrants on their first arrival; and in the next, of more satisfactorily adjusting the questions which constantly arise between them and their employers.

13. Upon the latter point I hope to be supplied with better machinery than is to be found at present for the wide field of duty that is to be exercised in the stipendiary courts when I obtain your sanction, which I have already asked, for the employment of a body of stipendiary magistrates, who are wholly unconnected with the district magistrates of the country.

14. Upon the former, namely, the distribution and first employment of new immigrants, I fear I shall find the existing difficulties likely to last as long as there remains so great a disparity between the supply and the demand of labour; and as long as the delusion lasts, that the new immigrants are wholly left to their own free selection, when the contrary fact unquestionably is, that they are subjugated to the designs and arrangements of the crimps and sirdars, who profit by their national peculiarities or credulities.

15. I have, however, been in frequent communication with the Protector, and have received, and am still receiving many long papers and explanations from him in connexion with that subject, as well as the various other branches of the intricate question of immigration, and explanatory of the earlier and more recent systems adopted by the Government, and of that which at present prevails. But all these inquiries are likely to occupy a considerable time; for it is difficult to arrive at facts, and to reconcile conflicting opinions where duties and interests are in some respects so antagonistic as they are necessarily found to be in this island, upon the subject of immigration and its details.

16. I am not, indeed, without hope that I shall be able to reconcile the principal difficulties which now surround the question, by availing myself of opportunities of gradually introducing the improvements I expect to accomplish in the entire system; and I place much reliance on the aid that will be furnished by the enlarged importation of labour under the newly sanctioned law of last year, which, while it gradually contributes an increasing supply to meet the pressing demands for labour, will, in the same ratio, reduce the numbers of "middlemen" by the more limited encouragement they will receive from the planters.

17. But the present application from the "Agricultural" and "Commercial" Boards are upon a subject on which much anxiety has been shown by all the leading planters in the Colony, and which is also of considerable importance to the local Government itself in those departments of the service (viz., the roads and public works) which are entirely dependent upon regularly employed labour; and, therefore, I lose no time in bringing it to your consideration, although I do so reluctantly because I am aware that you have already expressed yourself opposed to that sort of engagement; but, nevertheless, I hope that, when I have contrasted the original grounds of objection with the present inducements, there will be no difficulty in yielding in some degree to the demands of the planters, and giving them a fair opportunity of trying the alternative methods of employment, at the depôt of Mauritius and that of India, under the safe and proper restrictions that can be made to prevail in both cases.

18. At the first glance I could perceive no great object to be gained by the privilege of engaging labour in India, instead of submitting to the obligation of contracting only in this country; for I was not aware that, under the prevailing system, by which it is attempted, though in vain, to secure to the immigrant the free choice of his employer, it would be impossible to allot to the planters their proper rateable proportions of the imported immigrants, and to transfer the allotted labourers to their employers in the manner in which they used to be allotted and transferred in other Colonies. But I have found here so many obstacles to any such arrangement, superinduced on the one hand by the demand for labour, which has led to every stratagem and expedient for procuring it through irregular and improper channels, and, on the other hand, by the capricious determination of the immigrant to follow the selection that is made for him by the

MAURITIUS. sirdar, in preference to the more advantageous one recommended by the Government, that it has been quite impossible to carry out that fair distribution of immigrants which, under other circumstances, would be the best and most equitable mode of rateably adjusting the supply to the demand.

19. And when I explain all the difficulties that have presented themselves, I am sure you will perceive reasonable and hitherto unexplained grounds of dissatisfaction on the part of the fair-dealing planter at the present restriction that is imposed on him, even if you do not find yourself in a position to authorise the remedy partially suggested by the accompanying communications from the agriculturists and the planters.

20. The documents recount a great many of the obstacles to which I have alluded, and complain of the impossibility, while the present system lasts, of carrying out the spirit of the Ordinance No. 12 of 1855, which, although intended as a privilege to the planters who might desire to secure carefully selected labour for their service, contains, nevertheless, one clause (the sixth) which has always proved fatal to the operation of that law and destructive of all efforts to benefit by it; and, therefore, the planters have imagined themselves deluded by an apparently hopeful Ordinance, which authorises them to select and import their own immigrants, while, at the same time, it prohibits them from engaging those immigrants under any binding contract until after their arrival in the country; the consequence of which has invariably been that, through the instrumentality of crimps and sirdars, artfully employed by others, or still more designingly acting for themselves, they have lost the services of those specially selected men whom at great expense they have imported, and who are enticed into the services of others.

21. For this there is no possible and effectual remedy while that sixth clause retains its place, and the per-centage, provided by way of compensation in the same clause, supplies no relief to a planter who, at a critical moment, finds his expected assistance snatched from him, and with no possibility of providing more, and the loss in such case is most destructive and disappointing.

22. The great point that the planters wish to attain for the purpose of making that law at all available, under safe and proper restrictions, is that they may be permitted to engage those special services in India, and to contract there for their employment in this Colony; and after giving the subject my best consideration, I think that, under certain conditions and supervision, not only might those contracts be very safely and properly allowed under that particular law, but that such sanction would, with other methods which I have already, but very imperfectly, begun to adopt, assist in destroying that system of middle agency which not only gives an unlawful profit to the crimp or sirdar, to the prejudice of both immigrant and planter, but originates the germ of what I predict will become a very serious affliction to the country, and to the agricultural population at large, if it be not effectually crushed before it gains much additional strength.

23. The Orders in Council which issued immediately after the emancipation of slaves, and which to a certain extent guide at the present day in the introduction and regulation of labour, emphatically declared that no contract of service should be binding "unless made within the limits and upon the land of the Colony in which the same was to be performed."

24. The great and very righteous intention of that clause is evident from the context and general object of the Orders in Council themselves, because while they struggled to regulate a fair system of dealing between masters who had been owners and men who had been slaves, they struggled equally to prohibit any future importation of labour that might have the least affinity to slavery, or that might not spring from the uncontrolled engagement of the free man on his own free soil.

25. When afterwards those rules were to some extent relaxed, and under the earlier system of immigration contracts in India for service in the colonies were permitted, but without imposing those necessary restrictions which would have rendered the permission safe, it was therefore, I fear, abused; and great imprudence was shown by those who imported those immigrants, by the incautious selection of agents, who in many cases appear to have forced men into engagements

ments where the Government control did not sufficiently prohibit them from doing so, without first giving them the fullest explanations of the services they were to give and the payment they were to receive; and I think it may be taken for granted that great injury was thereby done to the cause of immigration, and that the Governments both of England and of India very properly raised their voices to prohibit such unrestricted engagements for the future.

26. But a middle course might well be adopted under which, while that unlicensed traffic in immigration might be absolutely prohibited, a fair and open contract, under Government supervision and restrictions, might be very properly permitted, particularly where it is found that the very prohibition which is intended to protect the immigrant, operates in very many respects greatly to his prejudice, and gives rise to a middle traffic which not only prejudices the immigrant and taxes the planter now, but promises to subjugate the will of the former, and to destroy the powers and influence of the latter, in times to come. And it is to these points that I wish particularly to draw your attention.

27. The present arrangements at the Indian depôts are likely to give great satisfaction when all the improvements in contemplation are effectually carried out; but those improvements will only tend to make the system more perfect so long as the immigrants remain in their own country, and before they begin to be practised on by the crimps who assail them after they leave India, and in the course of their passage to Mauritius.

28. It would not be at all desirable to alter that system at the depôt otherwise than by continuing to accomplish its gradual improvement; for I think that a proper Government agency is the only safe medium through which any portion of the Indian population should be drawn into migration services in the colonies.

29. But attributing, as I do, that value to such a Government medium of arrangement, I should be disposed to concede to it equal efficacy as a medium of individual engagement in India, with the duty imposed upon it of communicating all terms and details, and of regulating all necessary restrictions as well as relaxations, which are to be obligatory here.

30. It is that safeguard on which I would rest the successful operation of the amendment which is now asked to the law, for the purpose of giving it operation; but of course the amendment would be permissive, not imperative, and it would be left to the full and free discretion of the intended immigrant either to complete his contract there, and come out an engaged servant under the law of 1855, or, at his option, to join the general party of emigrants imported for engagement here.

31. In condemning the unrestricted system of sirdar ships, and the unlicensed intervention of crimps and middlemen, I must premise by admitting that it appears to be the native habit of the Indian to act under the influence of a head or sirdar: a practice that seems to have sprung out of their village systems, and which, so far as those village systems are concerned, may be very proper. Therefore when it is found that villagers connect themselves while abroad with the sirdars or chiefs with whom they have already been connected at home, it is expedient to encourage rather than discourage that alliance, as it gives assurance and satisfaction to the immigrant; and, generally speaking, the village sirdar is not the grasping man-broker that is the designing sirdar of the ship, but he is the friend of the Indian, and would be contented with the double rations and small gratification that such men always receive; but when once such influence is allowed to extend beyond its original limit, and unprincipled persons are found ready to act upon the Indian character, and by gross delusions constitute themselves their chiefs, and lead, or rather subdue, their inclinations, the mischief begins, the abuse becomes flagrant, and its future consequences are easily foreseen.

32. It has invariably been found that every vessel which brings immigrants to this country brings also a number of "old immigrants," many of whom make it their trade to gain an ascendancy over the immigrants and induce them to engage under their banners and to enlist, so to speak, in their service; and, after their arrival here, they have so completely controlled the free will of those men, as to prevent them from engaging in any service that the Protector may

MAURITIUS. recommend, and to force them to engage in any services they may have negotiated for them, and which services are procured by bribes exacted, it is said, to an enormous amount from the planters, who are sometimes forced to grasp at labour at almost any price or sacrifice.

33. These men are to be distinguished from the legitimate sirdars of the village, and are the well known and crafty crimps, who amass money at the expense of the planter and the sacrifice of the immigrant whose interests they pretend to serve; and I am informed by the Protector of Immigrants, as well as by all others who have witnessed the scenes, that the struggles which take place at the depôt, on the part of those who wish the Indian to exercise his own free will, and on the part of others whose interest it is that they should succumb to the will of the wily sirdar, are often of a disgraceful character, and subversive of the good intentions of the Government; and therefore the freedom of choice which is intended to be given to the immigrant, and to be exercised within 48 hours after his arrival here, is completely neutralised or negated by the entire subjugation by which he has previously bound himself to the designing influence of his self-constituted leader. Such ideal freedom of choice is therefore a non-existent and unreal thing.

34. And yet, with all the care that can be taken, there seems to be no remedy for this; and there is no possibility of carrying out the allotment system as long the immigrant is instructed that he may make his supposed election, that is, the election of his sirdar, in opposition to that system; while, at the same time, the very notion of free election is destroyed by the previous obligation to bind himself to the particular choice of his chief.

35. By careful arrangements and instructions, I may be able, by slow degrees, to accomplish an improvement in that respect; but it is obvious that the difficulties cannot be entirely removed until the supply of labour has become to a greater degree equalised to the demand, when, of course, all these incentives to irregularity will be greatly if not altogether removed.

36. So far, therefore, as relates to the general importation of immigrants under the orders and regulations of the Government, it must be expected that those scenes of confusion and those acts of illicit intervention by the sirdar must be tolerated, under a gradually palliated form, for some time to come; but it is now with regard to the specially imported immigrants, under the law of 1855, that I wish the practice to be destroyed by placing it beyond the powers of the crimps to impose upon the credulity of the immigrants, and to draw them from the services for which they were specially selected; and the only way of accomplishing that is to sanction their engagement in India under careful restrictions at the depôt, and under corresponding scrutiny here.

37. And, indeed, I think that it must contribute to give these immigrants, who are morally though not legally engaged, a very false impression of the obligatory effect of these moral contracts, which they cannot fail to keep in mind when they embark in legal contracts also, when they find that, after having been specially hired and engaged in India, and imported into this country for the service of a particular master, they are at liberty, notwithstanding, to laugh at such engagement and to contract a new one, of the force of which they may naturally conceive the same contempt; and they may marvel at the rather anomalous reason which encourages them to break the one and coerces them to perform the other.

38. Moreover, I think that, where they find that the influence which is unduly acquired over them by the self-constituted sirdars, or middlemen, is acquiesced in by circumstances of necessity, or rather cannot in the present state of the law be prevented, they will be inclined to form too favourable a notion of the powers of those sirdars over the weaker influences of the Government, and may form rather a contemptible opinion of the latter, in contrast with that which the artifices and stratagems of their own countrymen would, from their successes, be likely to engender.

39. Under present arrangements, all the artifices that are practised upon the general importations of immigrants are equally liable to be practised upon the special

special importations likewise, who are not, of course, sent by separate vessels, but are intermixed with the general body of Government immigrants.

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40. Not only do the designing sirdars contrive to introduce themselves into the bands of India, but actually go through the form of preliminary engagement there, which they afterwards turn to their own profitable account. Moreover, the mischief does not end with the arrival of the vessel at this port, for it is found to be quite impossible to prevent communication with the ship by persons who are expressly engaged in that illicit medium of traffic; and equally impossible is it to detect and prevent these artifices during the 48 hours of the immigrants' first residence in the island; so that whatever care, trouble, and expense it may have cost the importer to introduce those labourers for his own express service, it rarely happens that they are not snatched from his hands the very moment at which he has a right to receive them; and the special importer being, for the most part, the planter of superior position, who will not stoop to such artifices himself, invariably sustains a loss which the repayment of his expenses, and the 25 per cent. added by the law, can never adequately compensate.

41. As the law of 1855 was intended to confer a boon upon those planters who wished to avail themselves of its privilege, and, as it has by these unforeseen casualties been so completely neutralised in its effects, I think it will be the wish of the Government to give it the full operation that is desired by authorising an amendment, which, under the restrictions to which I have alluded, will sanction engagements in India not only for the labourers that the planters require under that law, but for the labour and skilled service which the local Government requires for the prosecution of the public works; and which latter labour it is most difficult, in the present competition, to procure in this country upon any terms; and I propose to carry out that special sanction for engagements by an amendment in the law, which will provide for the safety of the measure by imposing the following conditions:—

42. Firstly. All applications should be sent through the Protector of Immigrants, or to the agents at the depôts in India, and should specify, on a printed form, the numbers required and from what Presidency, the wages to be paid (which should be on an increasing scale during the period of employment), and the rations and allowances to be given, the particular service required, the district of country or the town in which the employment is to take place, the distance from a town or market, the supply of water and other attractions to the spot, and other necessary particulars; and the Protector should periodically send to the Government Agents of Immigration in India, a report of the minimum and maximum amount of wages and rations applicable to services of the various descriptions required in the different districts of the island, distinguishing the prices of skilled and unskilled labour, either agricultural or urban, as well as that of mechanics, tradesmen, domestics, and others, in order that the agents might know whether the prices offered, in specific cases, were in fair proportion to the value of the ordinary labour and skilled service in the particular districts in which it is required.

43. Secondly. While there would be no objection to the employment of private agents in the selection or engagement of labourers, servants, or mechanics, there ought, nevertheless, to be a certain restraint placed upon them through the instrumentality of the Government agents in India, who should take care that all fair and proper representations were made to the immigrants, and that, whenever they made engagements for special services, they should be fully informed of all material facts connected with their engagements; and this could only be accomplished by requiring that, from whencesoever such labourers and others might be brought through the inducements of private agents, they should in all cases pass through the immigration depôts, and be subject to the scrutiny and inspection that must always be given to intended immigrants before embarkation. And the contract itself must, in all cases, be entered into before the agent at the dépôt, or before some proper magisterial authority to be sanctioned by the Government.

44. Thirdly. After such contract has been completed in India, a proper document or ticket, in his own and the English languages, should be given to each immigrant so engaged, to be preserved and exhibited here after his arrival. And

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after such engagements, the contracts should be of the same force in this island as if they had been deliberately formed here; and the Indians so engaged should be carefully instructed that they are not at liberty, after their arrival in this country, to make any change in their masters, or in any way to alter their contracts, except by the consent of their employers, or in case of ill-usage or breach of contract on the part of the latter, and then only through the intervention of a stipendiary magistrate; and, moreover, they should be taught to avoid by all possible means any attempted influence on the part of sirdars or others, either in the depôt or in the course of their passage to this island; and, indeed, any such attempt on the part of those persons to influence them against their engagements should, if possible, be made punishable in this country, if the offence (although committed on board a ship) should be clearly established against them after arrival.

45. Fourthly. Within certain reasonable limits there might be the encouragement held out to the Indian immigrants to associate themselves together in their engagements with employers, where they come from the same district or village in India, or are otherwise known or accustomed to each other; and, if necessary, they might connect themselves with some sirdar or head man to whom they have been used to show obedience or respect, as that sort of association would probably reconcile them to their migration from India under these prearranged and conclusive contracts.

46. Fifthly. After such arrangements are concluded at the depôt, the specially engaged labourers or other servants should, if practicable, be transported to this country in ships in which other immigrants might not be indiscriminately sent, in order to avoid the risk of their being tampered with by designing persons on board; and, after their arrival here precautions should be used to prevent all communication with them except by their employers or their agents. Or, it might be left at the option of their employers in India to make separate arrangements if they preferred doing so, for their transport to this country, provided those arrangements were in general accordance with the ordinary regulations for the sanitary care, comfort, and protection of the Indians on board; and provided also that, after their arrival here, they should pass through the depôt and be registered in due form.

47. Sixthly. It should be left entirely to the discretion of the immigrant at the India depôt either to contract in India for his engagement of service here, or to come out in search of his engagement. If he prefer the former, he must be bound by his contract to all intents and purposes; and if he prefer the latter, it should be made known to him that the Government in this island will provide him a suitable master for his first engagement without allowing him to listen to any pledge that a sirdar may exact from him; and that although he will be left to some extent to the selection of his master, yet that that selection must be confined to those persons who have made the regular applications, and who will be chosen for him by the Protector upon good and favourable terms to the immigrant.

48. This latter arrangement I suggest as a powerful means of assisting to get rid of the unlicensed and designing self-constituted sirdar, although I think that, to a certain limit, voluntary association of immigrants with a previously known or an authorised sirdar need not be discouraged. But in such case there should be a penalty on the sirdar for demanding and on the employer for paying anything beyond the fair stipulated wages or improved rations allowed to be paid to the sirdar for his special services.

49. Seventhly. The liberty of contracting in India, or of reserving himself for engagement here being left entirely at the free will of the immigrant, it might be left likewise to his inclination to allow his contract to run over three, four, or five years, provided there was the power reserved of having it broken through the intervention of a magistrate in this country, either on the ground of ill-usage or of non-performance by the master, or of fraud or misrepresentation in the engagement, or by the mutual consent of both parties, or upon two or three months notice after the first two years, and payment of some rateable proportion of the expenses, in case the immigrant should desire to buy out his industrial residence or to provide himself with a new master for the remainder of such industrial residence. In any of which first cases the contract might be broken by the

magistrate,

magistrate, after adjudication of the circumstances complained of, or, in the last cases, it might be broken at any time after three years upon some prescribed notice.

50. And I think it would be desirable that it might likewise be safely left entirely to the discretion of immigrants arriving here for engagement to enter into similar contracts for five years, determinable upon any such contingencies, if after full explanation at the depôt they might think proper so to do. The planters do not urge that they should be in all cases bound for five years; but that it might be left to their option so to bind themselves if they thought proper, and that they need not be prohibited from so doing.

51. Eightly. With all these precautions, and any others that might be suggested for securing the open and fair dealing between the employer and the immigrant, I can anticipate no such difficulties or mal-practices as those formerly experienced when contracts were committed in India to a more unguarded extent. And any concerted arrangement among the intended special importers, when made known and approved at the depôt here or in India, that would facilitate importation of these labourers, servants or mechanics, might be sanctioned; if the delays at the depôt were found too inconvenient, and if the special importers were to provide vessels for their transport under the prescribed restrictions.

52. Finally. The privileges that are conceded to the agriculturists should likewise be extended to merchants, tradesmen, and private persons requiring skilled assistance; and the same privileges should likewise be conceded to this local Government for the importation of experienced labourers or tradesmen for architectural or engineering purposes, as well as for the public roads of the country.

53. At the same time that I bring forward these strong applications on the part of the planters and merchants, in which they urge the importance of sanctioning these special engagements in India, I must candidly mention that, as far as I have been able to judge, from written and oral communications with the Protector of Immigrants, his feeling has been rather antagonistic to general engagements in India, simply because he has had in his mind the pernicious practices formerly prevailing under the unrestricted system to which I have already alluded, and to which also I should equally entertain, and for the same reasons, the strongest objections; but at the same time, that both he and I would be opposed to any plan of general engagements in India, uncontrolled by the restrictions of a proper Government supervision. The objection would, of course, fall to the ground if special engagements only were sanctioned under the system of control at the depôt, which I recommend for its perfect security.

54. The Protector seems to build more reliance on the course I have adopted of sanctioning an enlarged accession of labour under the new law which has just been confirmed, and is sanguine in the hope that that alone may suffice in the end to satisfy the requirements of the planters, and work the cure for the inconveniences complained of. To a certain extent I go with him in these views; but, looking at the confident hopes and sanguine expectations of the planters and of the commercial body in the efficacy of that proposed relief, and keeping in view the continuing struggle that is long likely to prevail at the depôt, the increasing influence of the sirdars, and the impossibility of finding skilled labour and selected servants and mechanics at the depôt; and regarding, more than all, the true spirit and object of the special law of 1855, and the utter nullity to which that law has been reduced by the anomalous effect of the 6th clause, and the great disappointment that has resulted to the planters, I am strongly of opinion, not only that no harm would ensue from allowing these special engagements in India, but that in fact it is right that they should be permitted, under the entire option of the immigrants, and subject to the restrictions which I propose for the perfect security of those who choose to embark in them.

55. And I hope I may be excused, on a subject of so much local anxiety, for pressing the point of special engagement in India thus strongly on your notice, and asking you also to take my other suggestions and representations into consideration, founded as they are upon my own careful inquiries, and upon the information I have gained from what I believe to be the most authentic sources, as to the working and details of the immigration laws, many of which will require

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56. Those other points of amendment will probably form the subject of a future communication, when I have become more thoroughly acquainted with the bearing of several questions which I have for some time past had under inquiry, and which, with the assistance of the Protector and others, I am still engaged in investigating.

I have, &c.
(signed) *William Stevenson.*

Encl. 1, in No. 13.

Enclosure 1, in No. 13.

MEMORANDUM.

ORDINANCE No. 12 of 1855 not having attained fully the object in view when it was passed, it has become necessary that it should be modified in presence of the increasing demand of labourers.

2. There are two Ordinances for the same object nearly, that is, the introduction of labourers at the expense of private individuals, in addition to those for whose introduction funds are provided out of the budget of the Colony; they are Ordinances 15 of 1854, and No. 12 of 1855. I am induced, from the abuses that exist, and are increasing, to suggest that Articles 6 and 7 of the Ordinance of 1854 should be modified, and the provisions of the Ordinance of 1855 should be adopted instead, with regard to men taken by parties in addition to the quota to which they are entitled.

3. One great inconvenience of Ordinance 15 of 1854 is, the facility given for the payment of the stamps, having to disburse immediately only the 3*l.* extra tax taken for each man they take in addition to their quota. Some planters recruit men for their estates only out of those that arrive; they find it cheaper and more convenient than supplying themselves out of the local labour market; they have for the purpose organised a system of recruitment on board the ships and in the depôt, which causes great dis-satisfaction amongst the other planters, who are eager to engage a few of the newly-arrived immigrants on account of the good moral effects produced by their arrival on the estates. The immigrant who returns with the intention of returning to the master he has served, or who has despatched him to India, is dissuaded by bribes from following his original intentions; hence the complaints and quarrels at the depôt.

4. The necessity of sending men to India to have a chance of obtaining a few of the labourers introduced, entails on the planters a useless expenditure of money. Several hundred men are thus sent who do no good, for they re-embark in India, a few days after their arrival, to form bands during the voyage; hardly one in ten succeeds. In one of the ships arrived last week, there were 110 men who came for the first time to the Colony, and 40 recruiters sent up from this. Most of these reported to their masters that they had brought 25 or 30 men, or that they had recruited some 40 or 50 men which the agent had refused to despatch. If this continues, 15 or 20 per cent. out of the whole number of men received from India will be men sent up from this: a perfect waste of money.

5. Those practices would soon cease if the planter had to pay for each extra man he took the whole cost of introduction, as in Ordinance No. 12 of 1855. Men having been already applied for under this Ordinance, I do not see what reasonable objection could be made by those who would take the men here without a previous application, having to pay the whole cost at once. Those whose plan is to man their estates only out of the men that arrive, will look more to the local market, and leave each planter his fair chance of obtaining his quota. The competition to buy over sirdars and other expenses, which is not less than 1*l.* to 2*l.* per man, would cease.

6. Many planters have asked me to propose that each planter should be exclusively limited to his quota; but the payment of the whole cost would be sufficient, and would have the advantage of not infringing on the rights of the immigrant to choose his employer. The execution of the measure would be much facilitated if the planter was allowed, when he has no very pressing want of men, to transfer his right to take them to another; there is no possibility of this becoming a traffic of men, the planter transferring his right without seeing the men. It might besides be allowed, under certain restrictions, such as the transfer only to a planter of the same district, or the transfer back of the right to the same number of men in the following year. This would obviate the inconvenience of receiving money to introduce additional men, which it may be impossible to execute; it would almost clear up the accounts of each year, and leave no arrears to be claimed in the following year.

(signed) *F. Hugon, Protector.*

Immigration Office, 18 October 1856.

Enclosure 2, in No. 13.

Encl. 2, in No. 13.

Sir,

Port Louis, 24 December 1857.

1. **THE** Chamber of Agriculture, on behalf of the body by which it has been elected, begs respectfully to bring under your Excellency's notice the continued and increasing insufficiency of the supply of labour for the present agricultural wants of the Colony.

2. It is not unknown to your Excellency that the production of sugar requires not only the investment of a large amount of capital for the original establishment of works and plantations, but likewise the command of certain and continuous labour to ensure the performance, at the proper time and season, of the various operations of manuring, cleaning, manipulation, and removal of the plants. If these operations cannot be effected, each in its proper season, the whole affairs of an estate fall into arrears and disorder, involving to the proprietor not only an immediate serious loss of revenue, but a not easily calculated sacrifice in time, trouble, and money to re-establish matters on that footing which alone permits any farming or manufacturing enterprise to prosper.

3. Owing to the comparative abundance and reasonable rate of labour here some two or three years ago, though even then it was not so rife as it might have been, many thousand acres of unreclaimed lands were broken up and brought into cultivation. At first this process did not abstract so many hands from the labour market, because at the beginning the proprietors of those new estates had only to plant, and neither to clean a large surface of canes, nor to manipulate, but now that they also have got a large breadth of canes to care for, and all the works for a sugar estate in rotation to attend to, the demand for labourers has been increasing to such a degree that the number of men annually introduced by the local Government is found more and more inadequate to the wants of the old and the new cultivators; and this disproportion must be felt more and more severely so long as there remains such an extent of good land lying waste and profitless.

4. Many of these new estates were only bought, and set up at great expense, in faith in the often-repeated declaration of successive Secretaries of State, that there should be no limit to the introduction of Indian labourers here so long as they themselves were willing to come, and the colonists could and would pay for their introduction in such manner as the law pointed out.

5. As a further explanation of this continued necessity for the introduction of fresh labourers, notwithstanding the large number who have annually come to our shores, we would point out to your Excellency the number who have settled here (withdrawing from agricultural labour), and now employ, or profess to employ themselves, by means of the the capital saved from their wages, as cultivators or woodcutters on their own lands, as hawkers, pedlars, jewellers, gold and silversmiths, carters or drivers of hired vehicles and carriages. A return of the number of licences, compared with what it was 12 years ago for such employments, issued to Indians, especially when it is known that each licence or shop gives cover to numbers varying from three to eight persons or more, would, we doubt not, account for a number calculated to strike with surprise any person unacquainted with the various and profitable employment open to immigrants here; indeed, a stranger, who remembered the state of the island only a few years ago, and now passed merely along any of the public roads, contrasting the sparse and infrequent houses which, at the distance of miles from each other, then dotted its borders, with the, in places, almost continuous streets and the numerous agglomerations of huts crowded together and swarming with Indians which now everywhere exist, would at once and most satisfactorily explain the absorption of hands from agricultural purposes, and the necessity of ever fresh arrivals, until either the progress of such absorption is stopped by the void which it supplies being filled up, or by repressive laws such as were authorised and recommended by Lord Grey, when Secretary of State, but which have never, with any degree of constancy or perseverance, been applied by the local authorities.

6. To the mass of Indian immigrants themselves this excess of the demand over the supply of labour does not and cannot produce any good, at all in proportion to the waste and loss of time and money inflicted on the planter; it has only caused the nuisance of middlemen, sirdars, and crimps to flourish.

7. It is the aim and industry of such to intensify and perpetuate the natural tendency of the Indian to depend on headmen, and to endeavour, often by means of encouraging them in debauchery and drunken feasts, and by lending them money for such indulgences, for which afterwards they exact payment from their wages, to get and to maintain a hold over the men, and induce them to accept service with those whose necessities compel them to offer to themselves the highest bribes.

8. It is by no means uncommon for them to pocket bribes from more than one employer, all of whom are thus heavily taxed, not for the profit of the honest and industrious labourers, but with the serious mischief of unsettling all the men in a district, and, by gorging one scheming and influential middleman, of encouraging others to take to the same course of intrigue and corruption. There are more than one instance of a whole district having been unsettled, and wages unduly raised in consequence of one band having

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been so seduced from a planter at a critical time, and who seeing his crop jeopardized, and finding no other source for replacing the hands so urgently wanted, has been forced to comply with exaction.

9. It has long been confessed, that the only radical cure for those evils is more nearly to equalise the supply with the demand, and as far as possible to remove the competition of employers, according to the principles of free trade, from the close and confined market here to the larger one of India, where thousands only ask the opportunity of labour and wages.

10. On this principle, and with the professed object of enabling planters to carry on their works with certainty and security, of permitting them, by the exercise of their own means and foresight, to feel assured of having hands to reap what they might plant, Ordinance No. 12 of 1855 was passed by the local Government, and sanctioned by Her Majesty. Under this Ordinance individual planters are authorised to apply for, and introduce at their own expense, but through the Government agency, the number of men which they foresee that they will require; but owing to some defects, seen in it from the first, and to other circumstances which we are persuaded may be remedied, this well-intended measure has signally failed in its effects hitherto.

11. Even the few men who have been introduced professedly under this Ordinance, although in many cases recruited in India at the expense of individual planters, and in all brought down at their risk, have arrived here subject to no legal engagement; and have been further informed here, that they were under no moral engagement, and handed over to become the prize and speculation of, and to be competed for, by the unscrupulous crimps, &c., to whom we have alluded, and who frequent the "depôt" to seduce the labourers and prey upon the planters.

12. Thus it happens that the planter after having incurred the expense of sending confidential men to India to collect labourers for his service, and furnished security to the Treasury for the expense of their introduction, finds all his labour and money thrown away, and that in point of fact he is worse off than if he had at once resigned himself to enter into the repugnant and even degrading competition and fallacious seductions which prevail at the "depôt" here.

13. Again confidential men sent up from this to recruit, and who have been or should have been addressed by the Protector specially as such to the agents, have constantly returned without, so far as the sender could ascertain, ever having been recognised by the agents or himself, or the men collected by him having been pointed out and identified according to the Ordinance and supplemental regulations of the Governor; and bands, whether accompanying a chief man, chosen by the agent in India himself, or by such as have been sent from this, have never here been set apart at all to see whether they could come to terms with the applicant in fulfilment of whose request the agent dispatched them, but have been rather encouraged to throw themselves at once into the ranks open for the operations of the crimps. Quite recently even, a few men out of a larger number sent for by the Government itself, for employment in the public service, were similarly dealt with; and inveigled away by bribes to a crimp or sirdar. It is not therefore surprising if the planters despair of the promised benefits from the law as it at present stands, and as it is carried out.

14. An application to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State on the subject of this law was some time ago made by a planter at present in England; in the answer, dated 7 August last, written by direction of Mr. Labouchere, it is said "that as regards the working of Ordinance No. 12 of 1855, which authorises the introduction of immigrants at the expense of the persons applying for their services, I am to observe that this Ordinance came into operation on the 1st September 1855; that in February 1856, Governor Higginson reported that the requisitions for men as yet made under its provisions have been very limited, and that he was therefore disposed to think that labour was more abundant in the Colony than was generally supposed. Since the receipt of that Despatch no further intelligence on this subject has been received, but as far as regards the Home and Colonial Governments there is nothing to prevent the planters taking advantage of the Ordinance if they think fit to do so; neither has intelligence of any opposition on the part of the Government of Bombay been received."

15. It would appear from these observations that the Secretary of State was under the impression that the planters could have only themselves to blame if the supply of available labour were not increased in virtue of this Ordinance.

16. It is true that, even at the first, anticipation of disappointment and repeated actual deceptions since, have prevented the efforts to avail of it being more numerous; but if your Excellency would call for a return of the applications made under it, this misapprehension would speedily be removed. And if your Excellency would further call for a return of the number of immigrants who have been addressed to the Protector for particular planters in conformity with the Ordinance, and also of the number of such that has been handed over by the Protector to the parties who have so applied, we doubt not but that the statement we have above made would be fully confirmed.

17. We

17. We would respectfully suggest it, as further worthy of your Excellency's inquiry, what causes have nullified and made a dead letter of a law from which so much benefit, and as far as can be seen by us yet, with such apparently good ground, was expected by the Government and the public here.

18. We are reluctant to admit without proof what has been asserted, that it proceeds from imperfect instructions at the time from the Secretary's office here to the agents in India; but whether it may have proceeded from this cause, from their own proper apathy, or from unauthorised and unfavourable reports conveyed to them from this, we may assert that the individual sentiments of the chief of the "depôt" here have been manifested against a measure adopted after long reflection and inquiry by the local Government, and approved of and relied on by the Secretary of State as likely to diminish the just griefs of the planter.

19. At all events, it has been made too clear to all whose necessities compel them to mingle in the deplorable struggle that marks every fresh arrival of immigrants in the "depôt," that nothing has been done there to facilitate the planter obtaining the labour held out to him by this law, nor to encourage the immigrants to conform to its provisions or its spirit.

20. It is an extraordinary fact that, while nine-tenths of the men who come from India here are known to be collected by, and embark on the faith of men who have already been here, and that pretty generally these men are faithful to, and return with their companions to their old masters when not seduced by unfair, extraordinary, or long-continued exposure to temptation, scarcely any such have been reported to their employer as especially returned to him under his applications in virtue of the Ordinance.

21. The obvious and efficient remedy is the engagement of immigrants recruited by men sent up from this before the agents in India, for the service of the planter who may have sent for them, in conformity with the provisions of the Ordinance; provided always that the engagement may be revised here for good cause shown, and that the labourer should be placed on an equal footing with others of his standing.

22. The objection to the allowance of an engagement in a country other than in which it is to be performed, on the grounds of the men's ignorance of its nature, is not applicable to the present case; for so many Indians are constantly returning to their villages after long residence here, that Mauritius is better known to the classes and villages which furnish our immigrants than not distant provinces of their own country; at all events, it is quite as well known as it can become from nearly 48 hours' residence at the dépôt, after which the immigrants can engage with any one they please, and which residence, beset as they are by rival crimps, and temptations to over-indulgence, is, as regards their acquiring any true knowledge of the state of the country or the character of the different competitors for their service, it may be stated, without disguise, an utter delusion.

23. Indeed, goaded and surrounded as they are by crimps and interlopers, many of them do not even know the face of the employer to whom they ultimately consign themselves till they are engaged before the magistrate.

24. No greater proof of their knowledge of Mauritius need be cited than what has more than once occurred: men to whom every inducement to emigrate to the West Indies was held out, exclaimed that they did not know the West Indies, that they knew Mauritius, and to it desired to go.

25. Here we would beg leave to call to your Excellency's attention, that in India for a long time back the agents, by instructions from the proper channel here, had made known to intending immigrants that the normal rate of wages for new hands was five rupees per month, with rations, &c., and it was at one time fixed even lower by the Protector, and currently accepted. That rate, being far beyond what ryot could even dream of earning at home, has been found sufficient to bring forward any number of labourers required.

26. The extraordinary enhancement in the scale of wages here at present existing, caused in great part by the unfortunate suspension of immigration, ought, in fairness to the planters, and for the general interest of the Colony, the more urgently as its produce seems to be now rapidly declining in price, to be counteracted by every legitimate means.

27. Besides the advantage of confidence and certainty in their operations, which would result to the planter in particular, from the change which we are about to solicit your Excellency to introduce, we would remark that there would result also a great relief to the responsibility of Government for the well-doing of the Colony generally, and especially in regard to the amount of taxes to be raised and the management of the finances. As each planter became habituated by having the faculty of doing so allowed to him, to rely on his own foresight and means, and to send up and recruit in India for his estate at his own expense, the demands on the general contingent of immigrants and on the immigration fund would diminish; the colonial budget would be relieved, and as the supply of time-expired immigrants would become large enough to furnish the smaller cultivation, the expense of immigration would fall entirely on those who wanted the labour. This, which under existing checks and artificial hindrances, would be a grievous oppression and fatal to the chief industry of the Colony, could then be borne, and would constitute the most ample security

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against any fear of over-introduction and consequent distress, or under-payment of the immigrants, a professed but unfounded apprehension which long retarded the progress of the Colony.

28. Not only is the present supply of labour generally insufficient and its cost out of all proportion to its returns, at the price that can be reasonably calculated on for sugars, but in many instances enough of hands cannot be obtained on any terms. Much valuable cane last year was left on the ground, and it is now perfectly certain that this year also, for the same reason, a still greater loss to individuals and in the export of sugar will occur.

29. It is for the planters who actually suffer, and very plainly foresee the ruinous consequences which are to be apprehended, humbly but respectfully to urge on your Excellency the adoption, before the evil is irremediable for many, of such means as occur to them, or such other measures as in your Excellency's wisdom may appear best adapted to meet the exigencies of the time.

30. The system of an immigration, long regarded with unfounded suspicion and jealousy, has been very gradually and after much uncalled-for and purposeless suffering and loss to the colonists, considerably amended. Many *à priori* prejudices and theoretical objections have, one by one, given way before authenticated facts and practical reason applied to the actual circumstances of the case.

31. There are still, however, great steps to be taken before it can render all the benefits it might to Mauritius, and to the full number of natives of India who would here find sure and well-rewarded labour; and we have full confidence that more than one of these steps will be taken, and the progress of amendment maintained and hastened under your Excellency's guidance and influence.

32. Our present prayer is, that your Excellency will give your favourable attention to the foregoing circumstances and representations, and introduce such amendments into the above-cited Ordinance as will give it practical effect, and especially that to this end engagements, under fitting regulations, may be authorised in India.

We have, &c.
(signed) J. Currie, President.
Christian W. Wiehe, Vice-President.
G. Fropier, Secretary.
E. Papon, Treasurer.

To His Excellency William Stevenson,
Governor of Mauritius,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. 3, in No. 13.

Enclosure 3, in No. 13.

Chamber of Commerce, Port Louis,
29 January 1858.

Sir,

THE question of labour and immigration has again lately engaged the attention of the public. The Chamber of Agriculture, more immediately concerned in this momentous question, has moved the Government, who has, in its turn, felt the importance and necessity of an adequate supply of labour. The interests of agriculture and commerce are so closely interwoven, the demand and supply are such essential elements of production and trade, that the Chamber of Commerce desire to place on record their sentiments on this subject, more especially at a time when commercial appearances lead to the belief that cheap production will alone be able to meet the probable prices of the staple of this Colony, and low prices will once more test the struggle of free labour against slave labour for sugar cultivation. Of the issue of the competition with an abundant supply of labour under a well-regulated immigration the Chamber of Commerce do not entertain any doubt; they believe that this island, with the fertility of its soil and the energy of its planters, will establish the superiority in every respect of the one over the other. But to accomplish this, the occasion of the scenes of disorder and scandal, of bribery and corruption, which take place at the dépôt of immigrants on the arrival of every coolie ship, and attest the stringent want of labour, must be stopped; and the means of supply should become large.

2. The Chamber fully acknowledge the correctness of the theory that the labourer on his arrival in Mauritius should have the right to the highest price in the labour market, but experience, tested by the almost uniform rate of engagements throughout each year for all new immigrants, as fully proves that practice is at variance with theory, and that the extortioners called sirdars, who have great influence over the various bands of labourers on their arrival alone derive all the profit of a ruinous competition.

3. The evil and progress of that influence are every day becoming more apparent, as sirdars are no longer to be found, as in the earlier periods of immigration, over bands of men, varying in number from 50 to 100, but now dictate their own conditions over bands of 10 or 15 men, at the expense of both the planter and the labourer.

4. That

4. That influence can only be removed either by a very large immigration by Government that would meet all the wants of the labour market, or by engagements in India through individual exertions, under Government control. But the Chamber is of opinion that the direct action of Government may not suffice for the introduction of such a number of immigrants as will satisfy the just demands of agriculture and commerce, and that the sanction of the Legislature to engage immigrants in India becomes every day more and more needed in the interest of the Colony.

5. The Chamber do not see valid reasons why an immigrant engaged before a magistrate in India, duly shipped through an Emigration Agent, should not be as much cared for and protected there as he would be in Mauritius. The Government might in that respect take every precaution in the interest of the immigrant, stipulate the daily allowance of food, and other supplies, as well as a minimum rate of pay to the labourer, without which the engagement would not be ratified here; but the demoralising effects of contention and bribery at the depôt should no longer be the first scenes that the immigrant witnesses on his arrival in Mauritius; and the planter or the merchant should be at liberty to send to India to choose the class of labourers which he considers best suited to his wants, some for agricultural purposes, some for the very important work carried on on the wharves and quays in the landing, shipping, or storing of goods, others for the employment of mechanics in the different trades carried on in the various large building and marine establishments of Port Louis; others, again, for the smaller but no less useful class of house servants. Commerce comes in for a large share of requirements; the very high price of labour tends to make everything dear connected with the shipping, when it is stated that a labourer frequently exacts 6*s.* for a day's work on board, and the inadequate supply of mechanics, added to a growing disinclination on their part to manual labour, seriously enhances the cost of repairs of ships.

6. It becomes, then, necessary to seek elsewhere the labour which is required to keep pace with the increasing wants of commerce in these respects.

7. The Chamber, therefore, respectfully record and submit their sentiments, that your Excellency may be pleased to urge upon the consideration of the Secretary of State the sanction, under proper restrictions, of engagements in India, whether of labourers or of mechanics or of servants. Such a measure will secure an adequate supply of labour stimulated by individual wants, confer a great benefit on agriculture and commerce, contribute to keep up the production of Mauritius, and tend to uphold the prosperity of its inhabitants.

I have, &c.
(signed) P. A. Wiehe,
President of Chamber of Commerce.

To His Excellency
William Stevenson, Esq., &c. &c.

Enclosure 4, in No. 13.

Encl. 4, in No. 13.

(No. 3.)

Sir,

Colonial Secretary's Office, 9 January 1858.

His Excellency the Governor desires me to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 24th ult., and to request that you will assure the Chamber of Agriculture that it shall receive his early consideration. His Excellency fully appreciates all the difficulties the planters have to contend with, and the subject of immigration has for some time past engaged his attention, and been productive of many communications between the Protector of Immigrants and himself, and also of many careful inquiries.

2. When his Excellency shall have received a complete series of papers, now in course of preparation for his information, he will probably, if they appear to show much more confusion than he can venture to unravel himself, institute a careful inquiry into the working of the immigration system, with a view to its improvement, and the re-arrangement of the laws, which appear to his Excellency to be very unnecessarily complicated; and his Excellency will then be glad to have the co-operation and the benefit of the experience of the Chamber.

3. His Excellency will communicate with the Secretary of State on the subject of the concluding request of the Chamber, with reference to the amendment of the law of 1855, and will ask for the sanction (under certain restrictions) of engagements at the depôt in India; but his Excellency does not recommend the Chamber to rely sanguinely on such arrangements being sanctioned, as the Home Government appears to have shown itself so much opposed to them. His Excellency will, however, explain any points on which the grounds of the prohibition may appear to have been misapprehended. In any case, a very long delay must take place before any such change can be sanctioned and carried into effect by the approbation of the Imperial as well as the Indian Governments; and in the meantime, his Excellency will relieve the difficulty as much as possible by directing some improvements to be made, as far as they can be so, in the immigration depôt; and, under Ordinance No. 22 of 1857, which has now been allowed, his Excellency will still further

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relieve it by directing at once that there shall be forwarded immediately, and as often as opportunities can be found, as many immigrants as can possibly be procured; and that careful caution may be given to the immigrants, both at the depôt and on board, against the stratagems of unlicensed crimps and pretended sirdars.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Humphry Sandwith,*
Colonial Secretary.

The President of the Chamber of Agriculture.

Encl. 5, in No. 13.

Enclosure 5, in No. 13.

(No. 38.)

Sir,

Colonial Secretary's Office, 4 February 1858.

His Excellency the Governor desires me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter under date the 29th ultimo, in which representing the Chamber of Commerce, you urge upon his Excellency certain important topics connected with Indian immigration, and especially the importance of engagements made at the ports of embarkation in India with emigrants coming here being sanctioned by the Secretary of State.

2. His Excellency directs me to request that you will inform the Chamber of Commerce that he fully recognises the affinity between the interests of the agricultural and commercial bodies, which prompts the latter to support the petition of the former on the important questions of migration and contracts for rural labour, and which induces on their own account also a requisition for a larger supply of urban labour for commercial and other purposes, wants which are equally felt in the public service likewise, both in its rural and urban departments.

3. Believing the unlicensed advance of the sirdar system and the unseemly struggles in the depôt to arise from the insufficiency of labour, and to be caused by the scramble among the competitors for the limited supply of their demands, his Excellency has endeavoured to strike at the cause, for the purpose of removing or alleviating the effects, and has already given directions for an early and full supply of additional labourers to an extent justified by proper considerations of sanitary safety, and sanctioned by existing regulations.

4. The out-going mail packet will convey his Excellency's Despatch on the subject of engagements in India, which will be left, with his Excellency's views on the subject, for the consideration of the Secretary of State.

5. I am to add that his Excellency will not, however, in the meantime, lose sight of the importance of endeavouring, by proper regulations, or by express Ordinance, if necessary, to soften the struggles in the depôt, and to arrest the growing evil that will no doubt result from the increasing ascendancy and extortionate demands of those sirdars, who seem to have stretched their pretensions far beyond the original object of their encouragement, and to have made themselves the self-constituted and arbitrary controllers of the destinies of the immigrants. In this endeavour his Excellency must greatly rely on the agriculturists, and all other employers of immigrant labour, to afford him an assisting hand.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Humphrey Sandwith,*
Colonial Secretary.

The President of the Chamber of Commerce.

— No. 14. —

(No. 37.)

No. 14.
Governor Stevenson to the Right
Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.
12 February 1858.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Stevenson to the Right Honourable
H. Labouchere, M.P.

Mauritius, 12 February 1858.
(Received 5 April 1858.)

Sir,

WITH reference to the circular Despatch of the 5th September last, which conveyed your sanction of the arrangements made by Mr. Franklin for the establishment of a depôt at the Emigration Agency at Madras, and your approval of the increased rate of salaries solicited for the officers employed in that department;

2. I have the honour to apprise you that the Legislative Council have voted the annual sum of 173*l.* to meet the additional expense which the new establishment will entail.

3. This

3. This sum is the total amount of increase in the cost of the proposed establishment as compared with the present one; and under the plan of apportionment by which Mr. Franklin proposes to divide the expense of his establishment between this Colony and the West Indies, a part only of the increase will be chargeable against this Colony. As, however, the Council had no means of estimating the share which would be thrown upon Mauritius, it seemed better to vote the whole sum, and allow the surplus each year to be appropriated to other expenses connected with immigration, or to remain undrawn.

I have, &c.
(signed) *William Stevenson.*

— No. 15. —

(No. 69.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Stevenson* to the Right Honourable
H. Labouchere, M.P.

Mauritius, 25 March 1858.
(Received, 11 May 1858.)

No. 15.
Governor *Stevenson* to the
Right Hon. *H. Labouchere, M.P.*
25 March 1858.

• Page 200.

Enclosure.

Sir,

IN continuation of my Despatch, No. 19,* of the 13th of January, I have the honour to transmit the enclosed copy of a communication which I have received from the Acting Governor of Réunion, in reply to the letter in which I laid before him the particulars that had come to the notice of the Government respecting the means employed to introduce William Ferrier and certain other natives of the Pacific Islands as labourers into Réunion.

2. The Governor of Réunion expresses his regret that it was not thought necessary to confront Captain Wilson with Ferrier; but this the Government had no means of doing without criminal cause, and it will be seen that the substitute Procureur-Général, in reply to my inquiry on the subject, reported, in his opinion, of which you have received a copy, that Wilson had in no way rendered himself amenable to criminal proceedings here; and Wilson, it appears, shortly afterwards left the island.

I have, &c.
(signed) *William Stevenson.*

Enclosure in No. 15.

Encl. in No. 15.

(No. 21.)

Monsieur le Gouverneur,

St. Denis, February 1858.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated 28th January 1858, and to thank you for the communication therein contained with reference to the recruiting operations of the vessel "Sutton," in the Islands of the Pacific.

2. Your Excellency is aware of the conditions under which those operations had been authorised, the instructions addressed on that occasion to Mr. Chateau by the Director of the Interior having been brought under your Excellency's notice.

3. With those instructions before me, and in accordance with the information contained in a letter from Mr. Sentis, French Consul at Sydney, as well as in the report of Mr. Dalmayne, stationed on board the "Sultan," in the capacity of deputy of the Government to watch the regularity of the engagements, and who has been accredited in that capacity with the local Government by Mr. Sentis, I was far from anticipating the circumstances which have been disclosed to your Excellency. In spite, however, of the slender guarantee which appears to me to be offered by the declaration of Mr. William Ferrier, who, by his own confession, was induced whilst in a state of intoxication, to sign "what they wanted;" and although again it is surprising, that having staid several days at the Island of La Réunion, the same individual should have made no disclosure whatever to the authorities of that island, who were in possession of all the means necessary for ascertaining the truth, while I regret that the agents of your Government should not have thought necessary to confront Captain Wilson with Mr. Ferrier, and should have allowed that gentleman to ground his justification solely upon the production of the precise instructions from the

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Government of La Réunion, which he was accused of having violated, I am nevertheless determined, Monsieur le Gouverneur, to use every means in my power to obtain information of the facts relating to the operations above alluded to.

4. The local Government, moreover, has already given an account of this affair to the Department of Marine, as far as their own knowledge enables them to do so, by means both of the Consul's letter above-mentioned, and of the report of the Government deputy.

Accept, Monsieur le Gouverneur, the assurance of my sentiments of high esteem and perfect consideration.

(signed) *A. Lefèvre,*
Acting Governor.

To his Excellency
The Governor of the Island of Mauritius.

— No. 16. —

(No. 96.)

No. 16.

Governor Stevenson to the
Right Hon. H.
Labouchere, M. P.
24 April 1858.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Stevenson* to the Right Honourable
H. Labouchere, M. P.

Mauritius, 24 April 1858.

(Received, 17 June 1858.)

Sir,

(Answered, No. 183, 1 April 1859, page 296.)

I HAVE the honour to submit, for your favourable consideration, the accompanying copies of a letter from the Protector of Immigrants, under date of the 2d February, and of a report of the Immigration Committee, dated the 19th April, recommending that the immigration agency at Bombay should be put upon the same footing as those at Madras and Calcutta.

Enclosure 1.
Enclosure 2.

2. The evils of the system upon which the Madras agency was, and the Bombay agency is at present conducted, were so forcibly laid before you in Mr. Franklin's letter to the Emigration Commissioners of the 6th June 1857, a copy of which formed one of the enclosures of your circular Despatch of the 5th September last, that it is unnecessary for me here to recapitulate them; and it appears open to some doubt whether any additional expense will in reality be entailed by the change which the Protector and the Immigration Committee unite in recommending.

3. Our present demand for labour renders it necessary that we should look for a far larger supply of immigrants from Bombay than that Presidency has hitherto been called upon to produce; and it seems probable that the expense of the proposed establishment will not, under these circumstances, exceed the saving which will be effected in the rate of passage money by the creation of a dépôt, from which the ships engaged for the conveyance of intending immigrants can receive their full complement of men without being subjected to the detention which is the inevitable consequence of the existing system.

4. The Protector, moreover, anticipates that, in the event of a dépôt being established at Bombay, many of the immigrants from Central India will choose that port as their place of embarkation instead of proceeding *via* Calcutta, and longer route, which brings them through the unhealthy swamps of the Ganges, and very much lengthens the duration of their sea voyage; the passage from Calcutta to Mauritius varying in length from 31 to 50 days, while that from Bombay is performed in 20 to 30.

Enclosure 3.

5. Upon these considerations, I have solicited and obtained, under the accompanying written recommendation, the assent of the Legislative Council to the establishment of an immigration agency at Bombay, upon the footing recommended by the Committee.

6. And understanding that a difficulty would be found in obtaining the full quota of immigrants ordered for the current year if the measure were not immediately carried out, and considering also that you had already approved of the principle upon which the measure is based, in the similar case of the Madras agency, I have, in anticipation of your acquiescence, directed that a communication shall be addressed to the Government of Bombay, requesting that preliminary

minary steps may be taken, without delay, for putting the establishment of the agency on the new footing proposed. MAURITIUS.

7. So that, by the time your acquiescence is received and communicated, the preliminary arrangements may be so far advanced as to cause no further delay in carrying the object into effect. And, indeed, if it be deemed expedient, I propose to authorise a provisional adoption of the plan, to any necessary extent, for the purpose of testing its success and obviating immediate difficulty.

I have, &c.
(signed) *William Stevenson.*

Enclosure 1, in No. 16.

Encl. 1, in No. 16.

(No. 38.)

Sir,

Immigration Office, 2 February 1858.

MEASURES being adopted here for a larger immigration from India than there has been of late years, I have the honour to request you will bring to his Excellency the Governor's notice, that to prevent disappointment hereafter, it is necessary to secure at once the means of execution in India.

2. From the interruption in the emigration that takes place during several months, to despatch men to the West Indies, not more than 7,000 or 8,000 men could be expected from both Calcutta and Madras, it would therefore be essential to give a proper organisation to the Bombay agency, and have there the same system as in Calcutta, which would enable the agent to furnish 3,000 or 4,000 men instead of a few hundred as hitherto.

3. In Calcutta there is a properly paid agent, who has no other duties to attend to but emigration; he has a suitable establishment of clerks to register the people as they present themselves, a spacious office, where he can conveniently transact business, a depôt where several hundred people can be accommodated, where they are fed and properly looked after. When a ship has been taken up for the conveyance of emigrants, the moment she is ready to receive them the whole complement is sent at once on board, and the ship leaves after a few hours.

4. With regard to Bombay, it was decided some years ago to have there a temporary agency, which should be paid occasionally when there would be men to despatch. The Government of Bombay was desired to make such an arrangement on the most economical scale possible; to carry into effect the wishes of this Government, the Assistant Registrar of Seamen was appointed Emigration Agent, on 120*l.* a year, in addition to his other duties; he was allowed a clerk, and directed to transact the emigration business in his already confined office; he was allowed no depôt to receive and lodge the people; the system adopted in consequence has been to have a contractor for the supply of emigrants, and to keep them until they are sent on board; when a ship is taken up, he receives notice of it, and sends the people on board as they are picked up; a vessel is sometimes a month before she receives her complement of emigrants; the saving in establishment is more than compensated by the higher rate of passages asked by shipowners in presence of such detention.

5. It being more important to the Colony at the present moment to have labourers than to save a few hundred pounds, supposing that there is really any saving in the system, I would beg to recommend the following measures:

1st. The appointment of an agent properly paid (at least 500*l.* a year), having no other business to attend to but emigration to Mauritius.

2d. An adequate establishment.

3d. A convenient office to transact business.

4th. A convenient depôt in the neighbourhood of the town, with room for 400 or 500 people, to receive the emigrants as they present themselves, to be in charge of an apothecary, or native doctor, provided with the necessary medical stores.

5th. The people to receive food in the depôt, as in Calcutta, until they are embarked.

6th. The expense of recruiting the people in the interior and feeding them on the roads, to be paid, not to a contractor for the "supply of emigrants," but to the people who bring them from the interior.

6. There can be no doubt that the Colony will require annually at the very least 12,000 men; 6,000 or 7,000 to replace those who die, leave the Colony or servitude to work on their own account, and 5,000 or 6,000 to meet the increasing demand of labour for the cultivation of new lands. Madras and Calcutta cannot, as I have said, furnish more than 7,000 or 8,000 men; it is therefore necessary to have a permanent establishment in Bombay.

O.13.

H H

7. A glance

MAURITIUS.

The pilgrims to
Mereca take that
route, and never
that of Calcutta.

7. A glance at the map of India will show that many of the immigrants we receive *via* Calcutta from the districts of Central India, above Cawnpore, could come more easily *via* Bombay; they would take that route, and in greater numbers, when once assured of their having a depôt to go to; there would be less risk of sickness, the atmosphere of the Ganges being avoided; taking men from three instead of two different points, a better choice could be made.

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary

I have, &c.
(signed) J. Hugon,
Protector of Immigrants.

Enc. 2, in No. 16.

Enclosure 2, in No. 16.

REPORT No 8, 19 April 1858.

REPORT of the Immigration Committee on the following Papers referred to them by
His Excellency the Governor.

Committee:

The Honourable the Treasurer, Chairman.	The Honourable C. Wiehé.
" the Auditor General.	" E. Baudot.
" H. Kœnig.	" C. C. Brownrigg.
" G. Fropier.	" C. Antelme.

Emigration Esta-
blishment at
Bombay,

L.R. 500,
2 February 1857.

THE committee have had under consideration a letter from the Protector of Immigrants, on the expediency of having a properly constituted emigration establishment at Bombay.

The office of Emigration Agent at Bombay appears to be filled by the Assistant Registrar of Seamen, who receives an addition of 120 *l.* per annum, and the assistance of one clerk for this extra duty.

There is no depôt to receive and lodge the Indians, and the system has been, to have a contractor for the supply of emigrants, who is supposed to keep them until they are sent on board. When a ship is taken up, this contractor receives notice of it, and sends the people on board as they are picked up. This system causes a detention of the vessel for a considerable time before a complement of passengers can be made up, with a consequent increase in the rate of passage money, and the absence of any depôt where the emigrants can be lodged and taken care of increases the chances of men being sent on board in an unsatisfactory state of health. These are serious disadvantages, and the agricultural body of Mauritius will hardly be satisfied of the policy of the present arrangement, however economical, as it must necessarily keep the Bombay agency in a crippled and unsatisfactory state.

It is calculated that, if properly conducted, the Bombay agency may be able to furnish as many labourers as that of Madras; and it appears reasonable, therefore, that it should be put upon a similar footing.

The committee accordingly recommend that the establishment of the Agent for Mauritius Emigration at Bombay should be under the same regulations as to the supply of food and the expenses of recruiting as at Calcutta, and that the establishment should be as follows, viz.:

ESTABLISHMENT.

	£.	s.	d.
Emigration Agent - - - - -	500	-	-
Medical Inspector - - - - -	150	-	-
Writers and Interpreters, two at 48 <i>l.</i> each - -	96	-	-
Writers, two, one at 24 <i>l.</i> , one at 12 <i>l.</i> - -	36	-	-
Peons, three, at 7 <i>l.</i> 4s. each - - - - -	21	12	-
Sweeper - - - - -	1	4	-
Stationery - - - - -	20	-	-
Postage - - - - -	1	-	-
Printing - - - - -	20	-	-
Advertisements - - - - -	10	-	-
Office and Depôt Rent - - - - -	120	-	-
Recruiting Charges - - - - -	20	-	-
TOTAL - - - - - £.	995	16	-

Should,

Should, however, the Colony be disappointed in its expectations from an actual paucity of emigrants from Bombay, or have reason to believe that the Agent has not shown sufficient zeal and activity in procuring labourers, it will be well to have at hand the power of diminishing the establishment, both as to strength and remuneration, and the committee therefore suggest the propriety of subjecting this matter to an annual revision.

In recommending this expense, the committee are of opinion that the services of the Agent at Bombay should be exclusively confined, for emigration purposes, to this Colony; and venture to express a hope, that the consideration which the Secretary of State has been giving to the question of a separate agency at each Presidency for Mauritius, may have for its result the concession of this advantage, which is a strictly fair one, and for the cost of which the Colony is prepared to make ample provision.

Felix Bedingfeld, Chairman.

Enclosure 3, in No. 16.

Encl. 3, in No. 1

MINUTE of Reference of 22 April 1858.

I BEG to recommend to the Council, under the circumstances disclosed in the letter of the Protector of Immigrants of the 2d February last, and those stated in the accompanying report of the Committee of Immigration, both of which I have myself carefully considered, that provision be made for 995 *l.* 16 *s.* per annum, for maintaining an agency at Bombay, on the footing of that at Madras, and in substitution of the defective system now prevailing at the former Presidency.

(signed) *William Stevenson.*

— No. 17. —

(No 113.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Stevenson* to the Right Honourable Lord *Stanley*, M.P.

Mauritius, 8 May 1858.
(Received, 17 June 1858.)

No. 17.
Governor *Stevenson* to the Right
Hon. Lord
Stanley, M.P.
8 May 1858.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith six copies of each of the undermentioned annual returns;—

1. Statement of the number of Indian labourers engaged in 1857.
2. Statement of the number of Indian labourers discharged in 1857.
3. Statement of the rates of wages for engagement during the year 1857.
4. Statement of births, deaths, and marriages during the year 1857.

I have, &c.
(signed) *William Stevenson.*

Enclosure 1.
Enclosure 2.
Enclosure 3.
Enclosure 4.

Encl. 1, in No. 17.

Enclosure 1, in No. 17.

STATEMENT of the Number of INDIAN LABOURERS that contracted Engagements during the Year 1857.

DISTRICTS.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	TOTAL.
Port Louis - -	953	831	920	1,167	797	1,341	2,163	2,601	2,676	1,633	1,511	1,579	18,178
Pamplemousses -	596	552	900	957	1,215	1,149	1,004	1,047	1,225	800	618	626	10,689
Rivière du Rempart	193	214	420	553	468	606	645	357	484	270	369	106	4,745
Flacq - - -	375	554	1,046	1,234	1,252	800	547	950	780	531	475	438	8,982
Grand Port - -	516	428	524	610	756	746	774	722	799	715	307	324	7,251
Savanne - -	333	273	426	493	456	528	427	429	238	309	268	248	4,488
Black River - -	344	289	558	382	266	305	350	250	189	111	126	252	3,422
Plaines Wilhelms and Moka - -	454	607	622	1,045	901	678	634	777	406	493	463	331	7,411
TOTAL - - -	3,764	3,748	5,422	6,471	6,111	6,153	6,544	7,133	6,797	4,922	4,137	3,964	65,166

Colonial Secretary's Office,
15 April 1858.Humphry Sandwith,
Colonial Secretary.

Encl. 2, in No. 17.

Enclosure 2, in No. 17.

STATEMENT of the Number of INDIAN LABOURERS that contracted Engagements during the Year 1857.

DISTRICTS.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	TOTAL.
Port Louis - -	953	831	926	1,167	797	1,341	2,163	2,601	2,676	1,633	1,511	1,579	18,178
Pamplemousses -	596	552	900	957	1,215	1,149	1,004	1,047	1,225	800	618	626	10,689
Rivière du Rempart	193	214	420	553	468	606	645	357	484	270	369	166	4,745
Flacq - - -	375	554	1,016	1,234	1,252	800	547	950	780	531	475	438	8,982
Grand Port - -	516	428	524	610	756	746	774	722	799	715	307	324	7,251
Savanne - -	333	273	426	493	456	528	427	429	238	309	268	248	4,488
Black River - -	344	289	558	382	266	305	350	250	189	111	126	252	3,422
Plaines Wilhelms and Moka - -	454	607	622	1,045	901	678	634	777	406	493	463	331	7,411
TOTAL - - -	3,764	3,748	5,422	6,471	6,111	6,153	6,544	7,133	6,797	4,922	4,137	3,964	65,166

Colonial Secretary's Office,
15 April 1858.Humphry Sandwith,
Colonial Secretary.

Enclosure 3, in No. 17.

STATEMENT of Rates of Wages for ENGAGEMENTS during the Year 1857.

RATE of WAGES.	NUMBER OF ENGAGEMENTS AT EACH RATE.												TOTAL.	Per Centage.	Average Rate.
	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.			
£. s. d.															
10 - -	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1		
6 - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	4		
5 12 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	9		
5 - -	-	-	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	2	2	-	8		
4 18 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	-	-	-	17		
4 12 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	136	-	-	-	136		
4 10 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1		
4 8 -	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1		
4 4 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	7		
4 - -	-	1	1	2	1	-	2	-	17	1	2	-	27		
3 16 -	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	16	-	-	-	16		
3 8 -	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	4	21	-	-	-	28		
3 - -	3	1	2	8	4	4	14	10	16	5	6	4	77	all above 14s.	
2 16 -	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	8		
2 12 -	-	-	-	2	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	3	9	2-8	
2 10 -	-	-	-	-	2	3	1	-	-	2	4	7	19		
2 8 -	3	6	5	13	24	10	12	13	12	7	12	5	123		
2 4 -	1	2	-	-	5	2	1	2	4	3	-	-	29		
2 2 -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2		
2 - -	16	30	32	50	28	48	53	61	46	45	24	32	465		
1 18 -	2	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	6		
1 16 -	6	10	4	9	8	17	18	14	8	9	11	7	121		
1 14 -	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	8	1-2	s. d. 16 6½
1 12 -	29	54	61	66	70	83	112	70	91	63	53	48	806		
1 10 -	6	-	5	10	7	5	3	6	7	2	4	10	65		
1 8 -	35	45	62	72	57	84	67	92	83	136	65	35	838	1-2	
1 7 -	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1		
1 6 -	8	13	22	-	17	9	47	76	30	23	13	4	262		
1 4 -	85	81	167	176	147	198	224	160	217	186	139	164	1,944	2-9	
1 2 -	30	12	15	28	15	31	43	42	14	31	45	23	329		
1 - -	239	272	486	851	885	684	684	563	528	736	740	521	7,192	11-0	
- 19 -	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	10	-	-	-	13		
- 18 -	233	495	909	1,399	994	1,183	920	847	823	943	716	534	9,996	15-3	
- 17 -	-	1	1	-	3	2	-	13	14	23	-	-	57		
- 16 -	1,002	1,218	1,761	2,027	2,144	1,912	1,658	1,933	1,697	1,351	867	938	18,528	28-4	
- 15 -	5	1	3	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	12		
- 14 -	1,116	885	1,265	1,051	1,035	900	843	752	912	511	482	444	10,196	15-6	
- 13 -	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	6		
- 12 -	681	354	357	428	395	394	464	869	568	329	535	493	5,897	9-0	
- 11 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	199	-	-	199		
- 10 -	121	90	124	147	121	443	1,092	1,293	1,229	367	59	500	5,576	8-5	
- 9 -	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3		
- 8 -	64	59	68	68	66	67	110	105	1	66	49	53	776	all below 14s.	
- 7 -	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	87	-	-	-	91		
- 6 -	49	42	38	38	41	30	83	113	76	41	30	59	649		
- 5 4 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	3-5	
- 5 -	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	4		
- 4 -	19	17	20	13	30	25	49	51	60	24	39	46	393		
- 3 -	-	1	2	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	5		
- 2 4 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1		
- 2 -	8	22	4	5	6	6	23	45	26	9	20	31	205		
- 1 -	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	5		
TOTAL - -	3,764	3,748	5,422	6,471	6,111	6,153	6,534	7,133	6,797	4,922	4,137	3,964	65,156		

Colonial Secretary's Office,
15 April 1858.Humphry Sandwith,
Colonial Secretary.

MAURITIUS.
Encl. 4, in No. 17.

Enclosure 4, in No. 17.

STATEMENT of BIRTHS, DEATHS, and MARRIAGES, for the Year 1857.

DISTRICTS.																												TOTALS.		
	Port Louis.			Pamplemousses.			Rivière du Rempart.			Fiacq.			Grand Port.			Savanne.			Black River.			Plaines Wilhelms.			Moka.			GRAND TOTAL.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.			
BIRTHS:																														
General Population	604	588	1,192	52	50	102	17	26	43	70	67	143	114	99	213	22	17	39	16	23	41	30	23	53	12	12	24	915	905	1,850
Ex-Apprentice, ditto	409	407	816	182	143	325	82	57	139	99	111	210	130	116	246	64	70	134	57	60	117	99	88	187	38	49	87	1,160	1,101	2,261
Immigrant, ditto	211	226	437	270	261	540	147	138	285	253	242	495	222	221	443	94	114	208	97	108	205	129	127	256	43	46	89	1,475	1,483	2,958
TOTAL	1,224	1,221	2,445	513	454	967	246	221	467	428	420	848	466	436	902	180	201	381	172	191	363	258	238	496	93	107	200	3,560	3,489	7,069
DEATHS:																														
General Population	458	290	748	36	16	51	8	9	17	29	10	39	36	28	64	9	5	14	10	1	11	12	6	18	13	7	20	611	371	982
Ex-Apprentice, ditto	443	458	901	186	145	331	62	44	106	126	108	234	146	102	248	56	53	109	62	50	112	91	63	154	63	29	82	1,225	1,052	2,277
Immigrant, ditto	495	119	614	364	150	514	173	70	243	328	117	445	224	83	307	142	49	191	81	41	122	156	74	230	111	40	151	2,074	743	2,817
TOTAL	1,396	807	2,263	586	310	896	243	123	366	483	235	718	405	213	619	207	107	314	153	92	245	259	143	402	177	76	233	3,910	2,100	6,076
MARRIAGES:																														
General Population	-	-	231	-	-	23	-	-	8	-	-	28	-	-	48	-	-	16	-	-	8	-	-	13	-	-	6	-	-	381
Ex-Apprentice, ditto	-	-	99	-	-	34	-	-	22	-	-	20	-	-	30	-	-	31	-	-	31	-	-	33	-	-	16	-	-	323
Immigrant, ditto	-	-	43	-	-	10	-	-	12	-	-	10	-	-	8	-	-	5	-	-	5	-	-	15	-	-	2	-	-	110
TOTAL	-	-	373	-	-	67	-	-	42	-	-	65	-	-	86	-	-	52	-	-	41	-	-	61	-	-	24	-	-	814

Colonial Secretary's Office, Mauritius,
16 March 1858.

Humphry Sandwith,
Colonial Secretary.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Stevenson* to the Right Honourable the Lord *Stanley*, M. P.

(No. 119.)

Mauritius, 12 May 1858.
(Received, 20 June 1858.)

No. 18.
Governor *Stevenson* to the
Right Hon.
Lord *Stanley*, M. P.
12 May 1858.

My Lord,

(Answered, No. 66, 17 August 1858, p. 292.)

WITH reference to Mr. Secretary Labouchere's Despatch, No. 335,* of the 6th May 1857, in which the question whether emigration from India to Mauritius and the West Indies respectively shall be restricted to two separate seasons of six months each, was represented to be under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government; and Mr. Secretary Labouchere further intimated his inclination to approve of the appointment of a separate emigration agent for Mauritius at Calcutta and Madras, provided that the Legislative Council were prepared to incur the necessary expense.

* Page 274.

2. I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's consideration, a Report of the Immigration Committee of Council upon the Despatch above referred to, dated the 19th August 1857, a copy of a letter from the emigration agent at Calcutta, with reference to that report, under date of the 24th December 1857, and a further report of the Immigration Committee, dated the 6th April 1858, commenting upon the agent's letter. Both these reports were duly presented to, and adopted by the Council, and it was only when on the point of transmitting to you the report of the 6th April last, that I found that the former report of the 19th August had not been transmitted by my predecessor.

Enclosure 1.

Enclosure 2.

Enclosure 3.

3. The first mentioned report of the committee, viz. that of the 19th August 1857, refers to a letter from the emigration agent at Calcutta and other documents, besides Mr. Labouchere's Despatch, with the perusal of which I do not think it necessary to trouble you, as they bear chiefly upon questions of detail which have since been disposed of, and were only considered in connexion with the subject on which I have now the honour to address your Lordship, because, in one of them, the Report of the Indian Medical Committee, it was stated that the mortality amongst coolies embarked during the months of October, November, December, and January, had been observed to be less than half that which occurred amongst immigrants shipped during the other months of the year.

4. Such a fact as this, asserted on competent authority, and proved by a statistical statement extending over a period of some years, could not but be of considerable weight with the Immigration Committee of Council, when it devolved upon them to take into consideration the resolution of the Court of Policy, enclosed in Mr. Labouchere's Despatch, in which it was proposed to re-establish a rule restricting the Mauritius immigration to six months in the year, and leaving the other six months for immigration to the West Indies.

5. It appears that, for reasons having reference to the voyage, which may be applicable to those colonies, but with which Mauritius has nothing whatever to do, West India immigration is, in fact, restricted to six months of the year, four of which are the healthy months; and that though the Immigration Committee were mistaken in supposing that the immigration to Mauritius had always ceased during the West Indian season, yet, from the very return which the emigration agent furnishes, in order to prove that no such interruption has taken place during the last 10 years, it is apparent that the immigration to this Colony is very much slackened during those very months which are considered the healthiest, in consequence of their being comprised in the West Indian season.

6. It is obviously undesirable that the greater number of immigrants coming to Mauritius should thus be shipped during a period of the year which is recognised to be unhealthy, and still less desirable is it that either the West Indian or the Mauritius immigration should be restricted to that period, as must necessarily be the case if the resolution of the Court of Policy is adopted.

7. It seems far better, that the immigration to both quarters should be carried on simultaneously during that season of the year which is admitted to be the healthiest;

MAURITIUS. — healthiest; and that, with a view of avoiding the difficulties which are found in carrying on immigration to both quarters simultaneously by the same agents, a separate agent should be appointed for Mauritius, at each of the three Presidencies.

8. Upon the first point: of allowing Mauritius to continue its independent importation of labourers, either throughout the whole year, or at such seasons as may be considered most healthy, or most in accordance with local views and arrangements, I need only refer you to the numerous occasions in which the Colony has been put to enormous trouble, disappointment and expense, in consequence of the arrival of immigrant ships with the cholera, rendering it necessary to resort to quarantine; a recourse which (independently of other inconveniences) often plunges us into extreme difficulties when vessel after vessel arrives in the same condition, and there is only one cholera station for the reception of the immigrants. If immigration to this island were to be restricted to one half of the year only, and that the most unhealthy half, in order to afford greater facilities for West Indian migration, it is obvious that, in this important respect, as indeed in every other, the interests of this Colony would be very seriously prejudiced. And, when I assure you of the anxious uneasiness of the people of this Colony on account of cholera, arising from the past frightful ravages of that disease, and the excitement that prevails every time an immigrant ship is reported with cholera on board, I am sure I need say no more by way of argument against the extreme repugnance with which the colonists would regard any such restriction, as that which is in contemplation.

9. Irrespectively of the difficulty about the double agency, they believe there is none to prevent them from enjoying their free and independent Indian migration at all times of the year. And, indeed, it would be very difficult to satisfy them that any reason, however plausible, could possibly be given against the exercise of their free discretion in this respect; and as the only supposed difficulty seems to lie in the employment of an united agency, I am now brought to that second point, and have to report that the Legislative Council were quite unanimous in expressing themselves fully prepared to support the report of their committee, and to meet the additional expense which would be entailed by an arrangement for a separate agency.

10. I beg, therefore, to add, that this is likewise my own view, and I beg strongly to recommend to the favourable consideration of Her Majesty's Government, not only the continuance of free immigration throughout the year, and at such seasons as may best suit the convenience and arrangements of Mauritius, but the establishment of a separate agency for this island, at each of the three Presidencies.

I have, &c.
(signed) *William Stevenson.*

Encl. 1, in No. 18.

Enclosure 1, in No. 18.

REPORT of the IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE on the following Papers, referred to them by his Excellency the Governor.

Committee:

The Honourable the Treasurer, Chairman.	The Honourable C. W. Wiehe.
„ Auditor-General.	„ E. Baudot.
„ H. Kœnig.	„ C. C. Brownrigg.
„ G. Fropier.	„ C. Antelme.

1. READ letter from the Government Emigration Agent at Calcutta, dated 16th April 1857 (L.R. 3,101), forwarding a report, with enclosures from the Committee appointed by the Government of India, to inquire into the state of the sanitary arrangements on board coolie ships proceeding from that port to Mauritius.

2. Read Despatch from the Colonial Secretary of State, under date of the 6th of May 1857, No. 335, enclosing the copy of a resolution of the Court of Policy of British Guiana, expressing their hope that Her Majesty's Government would re-establish the rule which formerly existed, and restrict emigration for the Mauritius to six months of the year, allowing emigration to the West Indies to go on for the remaining six months.

The

The Secretary of State expresses his disinclination to change the existing arrangements during the present year, but has under consideration the expediency of adopting the suggestion of the Chamber of Policy, and at the same time of conceding the request of the Chamber of Agriculture of Mauritius, to have a separate emigration agent for Mauritius, at Calcutta and Madras.

3. The committee are under the impression that the rule adverted to by the Court of Policy of allotting six months to Mauritius, and six months to West Indian Immigration from Calcutta, has never been altered; but the question having been mooted by that body, and specially referred to by the Secretary of State, it will legitimately come under the province of this committee to make some remarks on the subject.

4. According to the report of the Government committee in India, February, March, and April are the three months in which there is most cholera in Calcutta; and in which the water of the Hooghly is most brackish and unwholesome, and consequently these three months show a greater ratio of mortality amongst the emigrants who then left Calcutta than the remaining nine months of the year; the centesimal proportion, calculated for eight years, showing 3·21, 2·35, and 2·76 in these months, while in the cooler season it gradually diminishes, being 1·08 in October, 1·25 in November, 1·58 in December, and 0·56 in January. It happens, moreover, that the time set apart for West Indian emigration, includes the whole of the cool season.

5. We are informed, and no doubt correctly, that these three months have been chosen with the special object of enabling the emigrant ships bound to the West Indies, to go round the Cape at the most favourable season; but, while admitting the force of that reason, the committee submit that the Mauritius has an equal claim to the consideration of the Government, and that, if it should prove impracticable to alter the existing routine, that this Colony may be allowed the privilege of obtaining labourers at the season of the year best adapted for their embarkation.

6. The readiest mode of arriving at this desirable object, with the least chance of interference with the rights and requirements of the West Indian agriculturists, would be the organization of a distinct emigration agency for Mauritius, at Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras.

7. The committee cannot doubt the willingness of the Council to meet any increased expenditure which this arrangement would necessitate, nor do they anticipate any reluctance on the part of Her Majesty's Government to assent to a proposal, which would tend to decrease the mortality hitherto unhappily prevailing among the immigrant vessels coming to this Colony, without in any manner interfering with other Colonies recruiting labourers in India, whose interests, by this arrangement, would be specially attended to by their own agent.

8. Indeed, the committee believe that, rather than continue to risk the introduction of contagion, by sending emigrants to Mauritius in this most unhealthy time of the year, the Colony would prefer a cessation of immigration from Calcutta during the three very unhealthy months, trusting to their agent to make up this deficiency by an increased activity in the cool season.

9. The committee, therefore, recommend that the Council should pledge themselves to meet the expense of a separate emigration agency for Mauritius at Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras, but at the same time request that the emigration to Mauritius, thus separately conducted, may extend over October, November, December, and January in each year, in addition to the six months now used for that purpose, out of which two, as above-mentioned, are the most notoriously unhealthy months of the year.

10. The committee have carefully considered the remedial suggestions of the Indian Medical Committee, and beg to make the following observations on them.

11. These suggestions are here copied, with the observations of the Immigration Committee opposite:—

12. It is difficult for us to recommend that the number of women and children should be reduced, as it is on other accounts desirable that they should accompany the heads of their families; but the custom of allowing individuals sometimes to proceed, although in a broken state of health, in order that the family party should not be broken up, should be abandoned.

The practice of allowing a member of a large family to go on board, though in evident bad health, and sometimes in an advanced stage of dysentery, has already been strongly animadverted on, and the committee quite agree to the propriety of having the custom abandoned.

13. We must strongly recommend that no ship whatever its tonnage, should be allowed to carry more than 250 emigrants.

The committee are disposed to agree in this recommendation, modified to the extent of allowing 300 emigrants from Calcutta to be embarked during the three cool months, and only 250 during the other months.

14. Shipments

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MAURITIUS.

14. Shipments should also be made to a much greater extent than at present during the cold weather months.

15. To render it more the interest of captains of vessels to land the coolies in health, we should recommend (in addition to what has already been done by the emigration agent) that one rupee per head be allowed to the captain for every man landed, and that from the total of this, 10 rupees should be deducted for every death on board.

This committee quite agree with the medical committee on this point.

Under the existing arrangement referred to on the other side, a bonus of one rupee is paid to the commander for each coolie landed alive, provided the mortality during the voyage does not exceed two per cent, with a further gratuity of 50 rupees in case of a ship reaching the Colony without a single death.

The disadvantage of this rule is, that no inducement is held out to the captain to persevere in his care when once the mortality has passed the ratio two per cent., whereas a scale of graduated remuneration, such as is contemplated by the medical committee would encourage and reward the exertions of the captain, even in cases of considerable mortality. This committee recommend therefore that the graduated scale of reward proposed at Calcutta should be adopted, and should supersede the present system, and they would willingly extend half this conditional remuneration to the chief officer of every ship bringing immigrants from Calcutta.

The following Table will more readily explain the result of the two systems.

AS NOW IN FORCE.			AS PROPOSED.			
Number of Men Landed.	Number of Deaths.	Captain Receives	Number of Men Landed.	Number of Deaths.	Captain to Receive	Chief Officer to Receive
		<i>Rs.</i>			<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>
100	0	100	100	0	100	50
99	1	50	99	1	89	44½
98	2	50	98	2	78	39
97	3	0	97	3	67	33½
			96	4	56	28
			95	5	45	22½
			94	6	34	17
			93	7	23	11½
			92	8	12	6
			91	9	1	0½
			90	10	0	0

16. The medical records should be better kept, and we think that a detailed explanation should be required from the captain and medical officer of the cause of the mortality whenever it exceeds one per cent.

A great improvement in this branch of the service is required, the general state of the medical record being marked by considerable negligence and inaccuracy; and the committee suggest the propriety of any flagrant case of inaccuracy or negligence being reported to the Indian agent, with instructions to decline the services of such medical men in future.

17. As we consider that the preservation of the health of coolies is more a matter of judicious management than one of medical treatment, and as the great majority of European medical men that could be induced to go in charge, are altogether ignorant of the language and the habits of natives, we do not deem it necessary to recommend a superior class of medical officers to the common native doctors for their medical charge.

It is worth consideration whether it would not be advisable to encourage European medical men to take charge of immigrant ships coming from Calcutta, by offering them, besides a fixed salary, a certain premium for every immigrant above the age of two years landed alive, and at the same time investing them with more authority, and, in fact, making them responsible agents of the Mauritius Government; much as is done in the case of medical men going to the Colonies from England in charge of convicts.

18. The

18. The committee cannot altogether agree with the medical authorities in Calcutta as to the small number of immigrants who die of cholera during the passage, inasmuch as they apprehend that not a few of the cases marked in the ship's book as diarrhoea and dysentery, are, in fact, cholera; in which opinion they are confirmed by the fact of many of these supposed cases of bowel complaint having terminated fatally in less than 48 hours; and they are surprised that no evidence could be found by the medical committee that any ship had arrived off the Mauritius with cholera on board, it being painfully notorious in Mauritius that in 1854 the "Sultany" arrived at Port Louis from Calcutta, having lost 30 passengers from cholera in the previous 21 days, and losing five others from the same disease after she had come to an anchor.

19 August 1857.

Felix Bedingfeld, Chairman.

Enclosure 2, in No. 18.

(No. 29 of 1857.)

Encl. 2, in No. 18-

To the Honourable the Colonial Secretary, Mauritius.

Sir,

WITH reference to the accompanying extract from a Report presented by the Immigration Committee at Mauritius to his Excellency the Governor, relative to the seasons in which emigrants are despatched to the Mauritius and the West India Colonies respectively, I would beg leave to observe that the emigration of labourers with their families from this port to the Mauritius has gone on without any interruption during the whole 12 months for the last 10 years, except for that period in which it was put a stop to by the Government of India in 1856-57.

2. The West India season begins on the 1st September, and ends on the 28th February, and the enclosed Table shows the number of ships despatched to Mauritius during those six months in each year for a period of 10 years consecutively.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. Caird*,

Emigration Agent's Office, Calcutta,
24 December 1857.

Emigration Agent.

P. S.—The ship "Calliope" will be despatched with 300 emigrants on the 7th proximo.

EXTRACT.

Para. 3. THE committee are under the impression, that the rule adverted to by the Court of Policy, of allotting six months to Mauritius, and six months to West Indian immigration from Calcutta has never been altered, but the question having been mooted by that body, and specially referred to by the Secretary of State, it will legitimately come under the province of this committee, to make some remarks on the subject.

SEASON, 1848-49.

MONTHS.	NUMBER OF SHIPS DESPATCHED.	DATES OF DEPARTURE.
September, 1848	2	11th and 26th.
October - - -	2	14th and 21st.
November - - -	3	7th, 18th, and 27th.
December - - -	1	16th.
January - - -	2	6th and 18th.
February - - -	4	1st, 7th, 19th, and 27th.

SEASON, 1849-50.

September - - -	4	1st, 11th, 15th, and 29th.
October - - -	1	25th.
November - - -	2	10th and 18th.
December - - -	2	8th and 19th.
January - - -	2	10th and 15th.
February - - -	2	4th and 23d.

MAURITIUS.

MONTHS.	NUMBER OF SHIPS DESPATCHED.	DATES OF DEPARTURE.
SEASON, 1850-51.		
September - - -	2	14th and 24th.
October - - -	1	7th.
November - - -	3	7th, 10th, and 26th.
December - - -	1	5th.
January - - -	1	14th.
February - - -	1	17th.
SEASON, 1851-52.		
September - - -	4	1st, 4th, 7th, and 24th.
October - - -	1	22d.
November - - -	1	8th.
December - - -	2	8th and 24th.
January - - -	2	14th and 31st.
February - - -	3	12th, 24th, and 29th.
SEASON, 1852-53.		
September - - -	1	14th.
October - - -	2	1st and 18th.
November - - -	- - none.	—
December - - -	- - none.	—
January - - -	1	6th.
February - - -	1	12th.
SEASON, 1853-54.		
September - - -	2	8th and 17th.
October - - -	1	7th.
November - - -	2	6th and 29th.
December - - -	2	13th and 31st.
January - - -	- - none.	—
February - - -	3	1st, 14th, and 17th.
SEASON, 1854-55.		
September - - -	3	11th, 12th, and 30th.
October - - -	1	28th.
November - - -	1	16th.
December - - -	1	17th.
January - - -	- - none.	—
February - - -	2	2d and 22d.
SEASON, 1855-56.		
September - - -	2	20th and 26th.
October - - -	- - none.	—
November - - -	1	20th.
December - - -	2	2d and 9th.
January - - -	2	8th and 28th.
February - - -	1	24th.
SEASON, 1856-57.		
September - - -	- - none.	—
October - - -	2	1st and 13th.
November - - -	Emigration prohibited under the orders of the Government of India, dated 24th October 1856.	
December - - -		
January - - -		
February - - -		
FOR 1857 ONLY.		
September - - -	1	20th.
October - - -	2	8th and 28th.
November - - -	1	5th.
December - - -	2	4th and 26th.

Enclosure 3, in No. 18.

REPORT, No. 7, 6 April 1858.

REPORT of the Immigration Committee on the following Papers referred to them by
His Excellency the Governor.

Committee :

The Honourable the Treasurer, Chairman.	The Honourable C. Wiehé.
" the Auditor General.	" E. Baudot.
" H. Kœnig.	" C. C. Brownrigg.
" G. Fropier.	" C. Antelme.

THE committee have had under consideration a letter from the Emigration Agent at Calcutta, observing, with reference to a passage in their Report, No. 2, of 1857, that the emigration of labourers with their families from that port to Mauritius, had gone on without any interruption, during the whole 12 months for the last 10 years.

Discontinuance of
Immigration to
Mauritius during
the West Indian
season.

2. The return furnished by the Emigration Agent at Calcutta shows, indeed that emigration from Calcutta to Mauritius has never been entirely discontinued; but the committee cannot agree with Mr. Caird, that the Mauritius emigration has gone on without any interruption during the last 10 years.

3. By the annexed Table, which exhibits the annual despatch of ships from Calcutta to Mauritius, it will be manifest that a considerable slackness occurs in the operations of the agency, as far as regards Mauritius, during the West Indian season; and the committee have reason to believe, that the emigration to Mauritius may be kept ostensibly open during that time, with a view to attract men to the dépôt, who, when once there with their families, may be induced to go to the West Indies, rather than be subjected to the inconvenience of remaining in an unsettled state at the dépôt for an indefinite time.

4. The committee take this opportunity of again requesting his Excellency to urge on the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the expediency of allowing this Colony to have its own exclusive agent in Calcutta.

TABLE exhibiting the Number of Ships despatched from Calcutta to Mauritius with Emigrants from 1847 to 1856, distinguishing those sent during the West Indian Season, viz., in September, October, November, December, January and February.

YEAR.	West Indian Season.	Rest of the Year.	TOTAL.
1847 - -	7	18	25
1848 - -	9	13	22
1849 - -	8	15	23
1850 - -	11	12	23
1851 - -	10	15	25
1852 - -	9	20	29
1853 - -	9	17	26
1854 - -	9	24	33
1855 - -	7	17	24

Felix Bedingsfeld, Chairman.

— No. 19. —

(No. 167.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Stevenson* to the Right Honourable
Sir *E. B. Lytton*, Bart., M.P.

Mauritius, 4 August 1858.
(Received, 21 September 1858.)

Sir, (Answered, No. 95, 26 October 1858, page 293.)

I HAVE the honour to report that I have, in anticipation of your sanction, directed the Acting Surveyor General to take immediate steps for the enlargement of the immigration dépôt, a work for which my predecessor directed measures to be taken, upon the representations contained in the Protector's letter of the 16th July 1857, copy of which is herewith transmitted.

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Enclosure, No. 1.

MAURITIUS.

2. The importance of securing ample accommodation for the immigrants, during the time for which they are required to remain at the depôt, can hardly be overrated; and there is, at present, scarcely sufficient room for housing 700 men there, with due regard to cleanliness and health, whereas the number for whom accommodation is required frequently amounts to 1,200.

3. I cannot but regret that, under these circumstances, so much delay should have occurred in making the preliminary arrangements for affording the increased space so urgently needed, and now that these arrangements have been completed by the final transfer to the Government of the lands and buildings which it is proposed to bring within the limits of the depôt, I trust that I shall be held justified in directing the work to be proceeded with immediately, without awaiting the result of a reference to Her Majesty's Government.

4. I have the honour to enclose copies of the Acting Surveyor General's letter,* dated the 29th March, forwarding the estimates and plan, in accordance with which the work is to be executed; my Minute of Reference, under date of the 7th May, in pursuance with which the Council voted the sum of 4,420 l. 19 s. 10 d. for this service, subject to the investigation and report of their Finance Committee; and an extract of report, No. 6, of the Finance Committee, dated the 28th May, in which their views are recorded in favour of this expenditure.

* Not printed.

Enclosure No. 2.

Enclosure No. 3.

I have, &c.
(signed) William Stevenson.

Encl. 1, in No. 19.

Enclosure 1, in No. 19.

(No. 73.)

Sir,

Immigration Office, 16 July 1857.

I HAVE the honour to request you will inform His Excellency the Governor that in consequence of the arrival of four coolie ships on the 12th, when the depôt contained already 450 people for embarkation, I have been able to land on the 13th the immigrants of two ships, only those of the "Appleton" and "James Fernie," that is, between 700 and 800 people.

2. The depôt is calculated to accommodate about 700 people, allowing that each adult occupies no more space than on board ship, that is 12 superficial feet, making all allowance for a portion of the people keeping in the open air whilst the weather is fine; it has been impossible to receive more than these two ships' complements at the same time, which made the total number in the depôt above 1,100.

3. I informed the captains of the two other ships of the necessity I was in of leaving the people on board for two or three days; as nothing is said in the charterparty about keeping the immigrants on board after the ship's arrival, the captains have declared they would claim an indemnity for the detention of the people on board.

4. In Her Majesty's Order in Council, it is enacted that the immigrants shall be provided with two days' provisions by the captain when they are landed; the object of this, I conceive, being that the maintenance of the men for two days should put them in a position of independence for that time, in making their conditions of service, I would not consider myself authorised to dispense with this condition, on account of the unavoidable delay in landing them.

5. As the circumstance of several ships arriving at the same time is likely to happen frequently, I would think it desirable that the agents should be instructed to make it one of the conditions in the charter of ships, that in cases of necessity, from the accumulation of more people in the depôt than there is accommodation for, the captains will have to keep the people on board on the allowance they received during the voyage, for which they would receive an indemnity.

6. The increasing proportion of females and children amongst the immigrants introduced renders it urgent that a large addition should be speedily made to the accommodation for immigrants arriving and leaving. With 222 men received per "Appleton," there are 154 women and children; in the following years the proportion will be greater still.

7. Although not a scientific man, the experience I have had in India leads me to express the opinion that there is more real danger to the public health in this accumulation of hundreds in the dirty state in which they land, in too confined a space, than in the sickness that has prevailed during the voyage. In India, cholera has been known often to break out previously in prisons before it has been heard of in the locality.

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8. The immigrants, under present circumstances, cannot remain less than two days in the depôt; they have to be inspected by the officer in medical charge of the department, their declarations of marriage have to be certified, and the bounty paid to them.

9. Last year, when the rise in the price of sugar had not yet created a great demand for labour, its price varied little in the Colony; it remained at 12 s., which was in proportion to the 10 s. which newly arrived immigrants had received hitherto. On the earnest demand of the planters, and with the conviction that there was no chance whatever of better conditions for the immigrant when bands had been formed, and no other planters but those who had formed them remained in the depôt, I allowed them to take the people out; but this indulgence, which had great inconvenience for the work of the office, could not be allowed now without injustice to the immigrants, as it would deprive them of the chance of better conditions.

10. Although the majority of the men arrived in the two first ships have engaged at 10 s., no inconsiderable number have obtained wages of 12 s. and 14 s. a month; a number of planters appear to have agreed to offer no more than 10 s., but there are others who, hard pressed for men, are willing to give to the immigrant arriving part of the higher price of labour which obtains in the colonial market.

11. Several planters have applied to me to interfere on their behalf in that respect, but I have declined doing more than explaining carefully to the people, that they are quite free to make the conditions of service most advantageous to themselves, and profit by the state of the labour market, and that they will be furnished two days' food from the ship, which will make them independent of every one for that time.

12. To allow the planters to remove the people without settling the conditions, and whilst others are on the spot offering better conditions, which are not readily accepted only from the influence of returning sirdars, would be interfering to deprive the people of their chance, and leading them to believe (which is the expectation of the planters) that the Government imposes on them the obligation of accepting certain conditions of service. I shall always feel disposed to do all that lies in my power to save planters trouble, but I can do it only so long as it does not interfere with the interests of the immigrants.

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) T. Hugon,
Protector of Immigrants.

Enclosure 2, in No. 19.

Encl. 2, in No. 19.

MINUTE.

I HAVE the honour to submit the following papers for the consideration and vote of the Council.

WORKS AND BUILDINGS.—*New Works.*

A letter from the Acting Surveyor General, dated 29th March last, with reference to the enlargement of the immigration depôt, enclosing plans with estimates of the cost of carrying out the proposed extension, amounting to the sum of 4,419 l. 19 s. 10 d., should tiles be employed in covering the buildings, or to that of 4,054 l. 5 s. in the event of tin being employed for that purpose. I should observe that the estimate includes the cost of purchasing land and premises in the neighbourhood of the depôt, valued at 800 l.

This is a work which has long been projected, and is of a highly important nature. But as it is not provided for in the annual estimates, I am induced, on account of its great urgency, to anticipate the sanction of the Secretary of State for the expenditure, and to ask the Honourable Board to vote the amount required, that the works may be commenced without delay, subject to the report and investigation of the Finance Committee.

(signed) W. Stevenson.

7 May 1858.

Enclosure 3, in No. 19.

Encl. 3, in No. 19.

EXTRACT from the Finance Committee's Report, No. 6, dated 28th May 1858.

3. THE Committee have considered various papers connected with the proposed enlargement of the premises used as a depôt for the Indian immigrants, and have placed themselves in communication on the subject with the Protector and the Acting Surveyor General. Enlargement of Immigration Depôt.

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MAURITIUS.

It appears that these additions would double the present accommodation for coolies, and a mere airy and healthy disposition of the sheds would be obtained, with better drainage than at present, and increased cleanliness.

The estimated expense of this undertaking (including the purchase of land) is 4,420 *l.* 19 *s.* 10 *d.*, and the Committee fully impressed with the necessity of encouraging, in every possible way, the Indian immigration, have no hesitation in recommending to the Council a vote for the above amount.

— No. 20. —

(No. 168.)

No. 20.
Governor Stevenson
to the Right
Hon. Sir E. B.
Lytton, Bart.,
5 August 1858.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Stevenson* to the Right Honourable
Sir *E. B. Lytton*, Bart., M. P.

Mauritius, 5 August 1858.
(Received, 21 September 1858.)

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that, after repeated and urgent representations from the Surveyor General's Department, respecting the impossibility of obtaining a sufficient supply of labour for the repair of the roads, I have, with a view of rendering the service more popular, solicited and obtained a vote of Council for the expenditure, in rations to be granted to the lawful wives of labourers employed on the roads, of a sum which would be equal to about 1,300 *l.* a year, if we had in our road service the full number of men required, of whom, however, we have not one-half our proper supply.

2. I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of a letter from the Inspector of Roads, and a report from the Acting Surveyor General, by which this measure was suggested to me; and a copy also of my minute of reference, bringing the matter under the consideration of the Council.

3. The dislike with which the road service is regarded is attributed to one of the many evil results of the influence of the "middle men," who, under the name of Sirdars, have perverted the opportunity offered to the immigrant of choosing his own master into an occasion of selling his services to any planter whose exigencies may force him to give the "middle man" the highest bribe for practising those arts of intimidation and deception, by which he, in fact, induces the immigrant to choose the master to whom it may suit his own purposes to allot him.

4. By the baneful influence which these men exercise upon the credulity and ignorance of the newly-arrived immigrants, all efforts hitherto made to obtain labourers for the road service, under Ordinance No. 12 of 1855, have been completely frustrated.

5. The Government cannot, of course, bid against the planters for the advocacy of the intriguing "middle man," and that advocacy is, therefore, employed in prejudicing the Indian against our service; nor will any increase in the rate of wages offered avail to counteract the false impressions thus engendered; neither is it advisable to resort to the course now adopted by the planters, of paying large and unreasonable premiums to the Indians for engagement in their service, a resort to which, to some limited extent, we have, however, in some instances, been obliged to have recourse, from the positive necessity of the case.

6. The measure now under consideration is an attempt to counteract this baneful influence by legitimate means, which, however, are not very satisfactory to my mind. But it will offer an inducement to the steadiest of the married men to adopt the road service, and to persevere in it, so long as this trifling assistance is afforded.

7. I cannot hope that it will be entirely successful, but it may serve to palliate the evil to which the roads of the colony are now being sacrificed; and the urgency of the occasion will, I trust, justify my having anticipated your sanction for giving effect to it, under proper precautions, as a temporary expedient to be tried, in the first instance, during the remainder of the present year.

8. I have

Enclosure 1.

Enclosure 2.

8. I have already laid before Her Majesty's Government, in my Despatch No. 22,* of the 30th January, what I consider to be the real remedy, and the only one which is likely to prove efficacious, namely, to give up the fiction of allowing the Indian to choose his own master, a selection which, owing to the peculiarities of his character, and the circumstances in which he finds himself placed, on his first arrival in a strange country, he is not likely to make for himself; to sanction the engagement of men, in India, subject to careful restriction, at the depôts of the several agencies, and to corresponding scrutiny here; and to entrust to the protector of immigrants alone the power of allotting to their respective masters those immigrants who prefer coming down with the Government contingent, and engaging themselves in the colony.

I have, &c.
(signed) *William Stevenson.*

MAURITIUS.

* Page 207.

Enclosure 1, in No. 20.

Encl. 1, in No. 20.

Sir,

Surveyor General's Office, 22 May 1858.

ON the 23d December of last year, 34 men and 16 women, belonging to a larger number who had been kept in quarantine on Flat Island, were engaged for one year to work for Government, and one of the conditions of their engagement was, that their wives should receive their rations of rice during the time of service of their husbands, which condition was accepted on the recommendation of the protector of immigrants.

2. Since that time these women, 16 in number, have received their rice, and, in order to obtain credit at the Audit Office for these rations, it would be necessary to have a special authority from his Excellency the Governor to distribute such rations, and to include them in our accounts of delivery.

Captain J. R. Mann, R.E.,
Acting Surveyor General.

I have, &c.
(signed) *F. Target,*
Inspector of Roads.

REPORT, No. 54 (F).

SUBMITTED for the approval of his Excellency the Governor, I should be glad to have permission to offer rations of rice to the lawful wives of all immigrants who may engage with the Road Department. It would be a strong inducement to the immigrants to engage, and would not entail much expense upon the Government.

22 May 1858.

(signed) *J. R. Mann,*
Acting Surveyor General.

Enclosure 2, in No. 20.

Encl. 2, in No. 20.

MEMORANDUM.

Government House, 7 July 1858.

I HAVE the honour to lay before the Honourable Board a letter from the Acting Surveyor General, dated the 22d May last, requesting that a special authority may be given for the issue of rice to the wives of a small band of Indians lately engaged by Government for road labour; and, further, recommending that rations of rice may henceforward be given to the lawful wives of all immigrants engaging for the Road Department, in order to reconcile them, in some measure, to that unpopular but necessary service.

2. The extra rations to the small band I have already allowed, as they were engaged after detention in quarantine under peculiar circumstances; but the general allowance, as a rule, to the wives of married men actually engaged, appears to be also desirable under the present extreme difficulties of retaining workmen on the roads.

3. From the report of the Auditor General upon the above-mentioned communication, it appears that this measure might necessitate a probable extra annual expense of 1,350 £, if the entire number of labourers that ought to be attached to the Road Department were in constant employment, and if one-third of them were married; but, in fact, we have not, at

0.13.

K K

present,

MAURITIUS. present, one-half the number that were contemplated when the road estimates were made neither do I think we are very likely to obtain many more in the present difficulties of the labour market, and the insurmountable objection entertained to road work.

4. Considering, however, how completely the public roads are already obliged to be sacrificed for the purpose of avoiding, as I desire to do, all possible collision with the planter, but considering, also, that road work is so unpopular as to require some attraction of the nature proposed, I feel no hesitation in recommending the Board to vote the sum estimated.

(signed) *William Stevenson.*

— No. 21. —

(No. 205.)

No. 21.
Governor Stevenson to Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart. M.P.
24 Sept. 1858.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor *Stevenson* to Sir *E. B. Lytton*, Bart. M. P.; dated Mauritius, 24 September 1858.

(Received, 5 November 1858.)

(Answered, No. 134, 30 December 1858, page 293.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a General Return of Indian Immigrants for the quarters ending 31st March and 30th June 1858.

Encl. in No. 21.

Enclosure in No. 21

GENERAL RETURN of INDIAN IMMIGRANTS for the Quarter ended 31st March 1858.

ARRIVALS.

DATE LANDED.	SHIPS.		Presidencies.	Adults.		CHILDREN.				TOTAL.	
	No.	Names.		M.	F.	2 to 10 Years of age.		Under 2 Years of age.		Males.	Females.
January 15 -	732	Adelaide - -	Calcutta -	175	88	25	20	12	10	212	118
February 3 -	733	Futtay Shaw Allum -	ditto -	204	89	24	21	14	6	242	116
" 29 -	734	Calliope - -	ditto -	217	68	20	11	10	7	247	86
" 11 -	735	Punjaub - -	Bombay -	182	96	24	19	14	16	220	131
TOTAL arrived during the Quarter				778	341	93	71	50	39	921	451
Births - - - ditto				-	-	-	-	-	-	405	466
In the Colony, as per last Return -				-	-	-	-	-	-	107,072	35,462
				Males.		Females.				108,398	36,379
Deduct { Departures - - - - 1,468 - - 320 } during the Quarter - -										2,034	515
Deaths - - - - - 556 - - 195 }											
Remaining on the 31st December 1858 - - - - -										106,364	35,864

T. J. Hugon,
Protector of Immigrants.

GENERAL RETURN of INDIAN IMMIGRANTS for the Quarter ended 30th June 1858.

ARRIVALS.

DATE LANDED.	SHIPS.		Presidencies.	ADULTS.		CHILDREN.				TOTAL.	
						2 to 10 Years of age.		Under 2 Years of age.			
	No.	Names.		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Males.	Females.
April 12 -	736	Priam -	Madras -	181	93	23	32	8	11	212	136
" 13 -	737	Startled Fawn -	Calcutta -	282	92	19	16	7	10	308	118
" 16 -	738	Earl of Sefton -	- ditto -	238	111	29	30	10	10	277	151
" 28 -	739	Futtay Allum -	Bombay -	181	49	6	4	3	2	190	55
" 29 -	740	Ally -	Calcutta -	240	68	10	12	5	3	255	83
May 6 -	741	Isabella -	Madras -	151	72	14	16	5	2	170	90
" 7 -	742	Regina -	Calcutta -	217	69	25	15	3	7	245	91
" 10 -	743	Malabar -	Madras -	191	100	43	19	6	6	240	125
" 27 -	744	Ocean Wave -	- ditto -	129	49	7	11	3	2	139	62
" 27 -	745	Panama -	- ditto -	184	54	19	11	4	5	207	70
" 29 -	746	Appleton -	Calcutta -	210	99	33	26	8	13	251	138
" 29 -	747	Mermaid -	Madras -	186	40	10	10	0	5	196	55
June 11 -	748	Sir Edward Parry -	- ditto -	158	56	27	20	6	6	191	91
" 8 -	749	Atlet Rohoman -	Calcutta -	207	82	23	12	4	7	234	101
" 10 -	750	Shah Allum -	- ditto -	211	99	26	29	10	12	247	140
" 10 -	751	Boyne -	Bombay -	144	94	23	10	7	4	174	108
" 12 -	752	Bucepholus -	Calcutta -	235	90	20	21	12	10	267	121
" 14 -	753	Minden -	Madras -	217	95	41	22	7	8	265	125
" 29 -	754	Blue Jacket -	Calcutta -	320	97	33	19	9	12	362	128
" 30 -	755	Soubahdar -	- ditto -	196	70	26	25	10	15	232	110
TOTAL arrived during the Quarter				4,078	1,588	457	360	127	150	4,662	2,098
Births - ditto				-	-	-	-	-	-	318	292
In the Colony, as per last Return				-	-	-	-	-	-	106,364	35,864
						Males.		Females.		111,344	38,254
Deduct { Departures - 1,760						365 {		during the Quarter		2,283	577
{ Deaths - 523						212 }					
Remaining on the 30th June 1858										109,061	37,677

T. J. Hugon,
Protector of Immigrants.

— No. 22. —

(No. 211.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Stevenson* to the Right Honourable
Sir *E. B. Lytton*, Bart., M.P.

Mauritius, 27 September 1858.

(Received, 6 December 1858.)

Sir,

(Answered, No. 161, 22 January 1859, p. 294.)

WITH reference to the enclosed copy of a letter from the Protector of Immigrants to the Colonial Secretary, dated the 9th instant, I have the honour to report, in reply to Lord Stanley's Despatch, No. 66, of the 28th May, that the "Bengal Merchant" does not appear to have been examined by any competent surveyors, prior to her being employed in the conveyance of return coolies to Calcutta, on the occasion adverted to by his Lordship.

2. As, however, the Protector reports that every ship taken up to carry return immigrants is now subjected to a survey by the harbour master, when she has not come in with immigrants, and that a copy of the survey is forwarded to the Protector of Immigrants in India, I have not thought it necessary to take any further steps in this matter, other than to direct that Mr. Hugon should be furnished with a copy of the Passenger Act, of the provisions of which he appears to have been in ignorance, and to require that for the future, the Instructions conveyed by the Despatch and enclosures now under reply shall be strictly pursued.

I have, &c.
(signed) *William Stevenson*.

No. 22.
Governor *Stevenson*
to the Right
Hon. Sir *E. B.*
Lytton, Bart.,
27 Sept. 1858.

Enclosure.

MAURITIUS.

Encl. in No. 22.

Enclosure in No. 22.

Sir,

Immigration Office, 9 September 1858.

IN answer to your letter, under date the 22d July last, regarding the Despatch of return immigrants per ship "Bengal Merchant," in 1856, without previous survey of that vessel, I have the honour to report that no copy of the Passenger Act having ever been in the office, I was not aware of its provisions, and I have never received information as to its being applied to the emigration of Indians, from my predecessor or any one else; and as up to the time that the "Bengal Merchant" was taken up, vessels engaged to carry return immigrants had not been surveyed, that vessel formed no exception to the practice; being a teak-built ship, her age was not, in my opinion, objectionable, as ships of the same class and age had been and are still engaged in India to convey emigrants to this port; amongst them I may instance the "Cornwall," built in the same year as the "Bengal Merchant," which was lost this year on Cannonier Point, with immigrants on board; the throwing overboard of cargo in bad weather is not an uncommon occurrence with ships coming to this port deeply loaded with rice, and is not considered by practical men a proof of sea unworthiness.

2. Since a communication has been made from India about the "Bengal Merchant," every ship taken up to carry return immigrants has been subjected to a survey by the harbour master, when she has not come in with immigrants, and a copy of the survey report is forwarded to the protector of immigrants in India, with the other documents.

I have, &c.
(signed) T. Hugon,
Protector of Immigrants.

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

— No. 23. —

(No. 243.)

No. 23.
Governor Stevenson to the Right
Hon. Sir E. B.
Lytton, Bart. M.P.
17 Nov. 185
* Page 288.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Stevenson* to the Right Honourable
Sir *E. Bulwer Lytton*, Bart. M.P.

Sir,

Mauritius, 17 November 1858.

(Received 24 January 1859.)

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your Despatch, No. 47,* of the 26th July ultimo, enclosing a correspondence between the Colonial Office, the Emigration Commissioners, and the India Board, and sanctioning two points which I had strongly urged in a former Despatch, viz., the privilege of contracting in India for service in this Colony, and the power of the Government to make fair and beneficial allotments of the immigrants arriving here under Government arrangements, and not under contract for special service.

2. I lost no time in communicating this Despatch to the Council, who received the intimation with much satisfaction, believing that the privileges now conceded will, in the first place, prevent many of the disappointments that have hitherto been experienced, and, in the next place, obviate many of the difficulties that have prevailed at the dépôt, and which there have hitherto been no proper means of removing; and I have myself no doubt, that, if the details are carefully worked out, very great improvements in our immigration scheme will result from these concessions.

3. As soon as I had prepared outlines of the measures I proposed to introduce, and of the preliminary regulations which appeared necessary for the successful operation of the new arrangements, I thought it right to meet the Immigration Committee of the Council, and to place those outlines before them for careful consideration and discussion; and I explained to them fully my views of the manner in which the measure should be worked out, and received in return several useful suggestions; and the result was afterwards communicated to the Council, at the first subsequent meeting, and approved of by them.

4. That result is briefly shown by the letter written, by my direction, to the Government of India, with the outline of regulations to which it refers, copies of which I have the honour to transmit for your perusal.

5. These outlines, and the minor documents and forms referred to in the letter to the Government of India, were likewise transmitted to our agents at the different Presidencies, who had ample preliminary intimation communicated

10

Enclosure No. 1.
Enclosure No. 2.

to them by the circular letter of which I have also the honour to transmit a copy.

MAURITIUS.

Enclosure No. 3.

6. I thought it right to transmit all these provisional documents to India by the first opportunity after they were completed, in order that no time might be lost in drawing the attention of the Indian Government to the consideration of the manner in which the new arrangements were to be carried into operation, so that, without delay, their acquiescence might be obtained to all those details which related to the scheme, as far as they were to be carried out in India.

7. The remaining details which related to the mode of operation here, and a local Ordinance which was to give effect to the contracts in India, I promised to complete without delay. These, under the assistance of the Procureur General, have now been completed; and, after having been carefully considered by the Council, at several recent meetings, the Ordinance, No. 30 of 1858, and the Regulations in pursuance of that Ordinance, have been finally passed.

8. I have now the honour of transmitting this Ordinance, and the Regulations* which it authorises. Other copies and explanations have been forwarded, by this mail, to the Indian Government, and full instructions and all necessary forms have been likewise transmitted to the Agents at the Presidencies, so that all the preliminary arrangements which have fallen to the share of this Government, for the furtherance of the alterations you have sanctioned, are now complete.

* Vide Appendix, No. 25, page 344.

9. Although I think it right to transmit, for your information, the letters to the Indian Government and agents, and the outline of proposed Regulations which accompanied them, yet it would, perhaps, have been enough for me to send you only the Ordinance, No. 30 of 1858, and the Regulations in pursuance thereof, now forwarded; for those two documents are alone necessary to show in what manner your sanction to this scheme, and your instructions for its execution, have been carried into effect; and, for that purpose, I draw your attention to those two documents alone.

10. Notwithstanding the Regulations in pursuance of the Ordinance are to be made, and from time to time altered when necessary by the Executive Council, I nevertheless considered it right, when these Regulations were to be considered, to invite all the members of the Legislative Council to assist in the discussion; for, as they were to form the first series of Regulations under the new scheme, and required all the care that practical experience of details could furnish, I considered that the new code would be likely to give greater satisfaction, and prove more practically useful, if all those who were conversant with the past systems contributed the assistance which their experience enabled them to afford. I also invited the aid of the Protector of Immigrants, who likewise assisted at the discussion; and I took care that the Regulations, before their final completion, should be published for general information and comment, and that copies should be sent to the Chambers of Agriculture and Commerce, both of which were materially interested in the measure, and suggested some practical improvements.

11. I have every reason, therefore, to believe that these results, after all the precautions which have been taken, will not only carry out the united views of the Home and Indian Governments, but will also be found sufficient for all local purposes, and satisfactory to those who hope to benefit by the correct operation of the measure, in all its details.

12. It cannot, of course, be expected that all points of practical difficulty can be at once anticipated by the provisions of these Regulations; but it is satisfactory to know that, under the broad permission which the Ordinance gives, these Regulations may, from time to time, be amended, or others added, according to circumstances, by the Governor in Council, without the ceremony of resorting, upon every trifling occasion, to an amending Ordinance, a course which has always been found inconvenient in such cases, and productive only of complications in the laws themselves, where improved Regulations for their practical operation, are alone required; and experience proves that in these as in other cases the power to make rules, and the rules in pursuance of the power, should always be kept distinct.

MAURITIUS.

Enclosure No. 6.

13. Accompanying the Ordinance I also transmit, and draw your attention to, the usual report of the Procureur General, explanatory of its operation and effect; and I think there is no point connected with that Ordinance which requires any further explanation from myself.

14. In reference to the stipulations contained in the Regulations under which the engagements in India are sanctioned, there is only one point to which I wish to allude, and that is, with respect to the agency to be employed for recruiting purposes.

15. It will be remembered that in my Despatch, No. 22 of the 30th January, upon the subject, I supported that sort of special recruiting satisfactorily employed by the planters, which was carried on through the medium of Indians in their own employment, who well knew the advantages of their service, and who were sent expressly to collect friends and relatives from their native villages, or from their own parts of India, under fair inducements for entering the service of the same employers; and I suggested that these men, when named to the Protector of Immigrants in Mauritius, and licensed by the Agent in India, should still be allowed to be subordinate instruments in recruiting men who were afterwards to enter into their regular contracts, before the Government Agent at the depôt in India.

16. These men have always been supported, and very properly so, by the Protector of Immigrants; and my view appears to have been sufficiently acquiesced in by the Emigration Commissioners in England; but there is one passage in Mr. Merivale's letter which appeared, at first, to imply that these men were to be excluded, and which seemed to convey an absolute prohibition against employing any others than the Government Agents and subordinates alone.

17. Now, if this had been so intended, I fear it would have rendered the plan impracticable to a great extent, inasmuch as this most useful and valuable class of men, who are known to be instrumental in bringing the largest number of recruits to the depôt, would have been prohibited from exercising their minor functions of village recruiters; the Government Agents would have found it impossible to supply their places except at an enormous expense to this Government, which it never thought of sustaining; and the great object of representing localities of estates and the characters of their masters would have been lost, as the planters would no longer have had the inducements of sending confidential servants to India if they were not to be listened to, or allowed to assist in the minor recruiting when they arrived there.

18. Yet still this sort of recruiting would have been indirectly persevered in, even if unlicensed; for all agree in saying that it would have been impossible to prevent it, and, therefore, better to license it to a limited extent, and within firm and proper restrictions imposed by both Governments, rather than risk the chance of its being continued to a corrupt and mischievous extent.

19. I therefore thought it right to follow the spirit of the instructions in the Despatch, by taking the different views upon this subject as I found them expressed in the several enclosures it contained, and with reference to my suggestions, so far as they seemed to have been acquiesced in; and, while making it a strict regulation that no planter or other applicant for immigrants' services, should employ any other, within the limits of the depôt, than the Agent himself or any of his Government subordinates, yet that there might still be permission to use the services of special agents for village or other recruiting out of the depôt, upon the condition that such special agents should be named and approved here, and be licensed for such special service in India; and that, after such license, these special agents should conform to all the regulations of the agency, and be in all respects subordinate, within the limits of their authority, to the Government Agents; and that, in all cases in which they brought recruits to the agency, it should be left to the latter to examine and complete contracts, through the instrumentality of the Agent or his Government subordinates alone.

20. This I believe to be the spirit of the approved stipulation in this respect; and you will observe that I have fully so explained it, in the letter which has been

been addressed to the Indian Government; and I have no doubt that, with all the care that has been taken to secure the honesty of these special recruiters, the arrangement will be as satisfactory to the Indian Government as, I trust, it will be to yourself.

21. Nevertheless, should the employment of special recruiters, even under the stringent Regulations that have been provided, still be objected to, it will be easy to withdraw that privilege, although difficult, perhaps impossible, fully to supply their place by the substitution of Government recruiters alone; and the alternative I have provided, in Articles 5 and 8 of the Regulations, which requires the Agent to recruit at the expense of the Government where no special recruiter has been appointed or licensed, will meet all cases in which no special recruiters are provided. It will only, then, become necessary to make known this result, and to correct those Regulations which refer to the licensed recruiters. But this, I hope, will become unnecessary when this explanation has been received.

22. There is another provision in these Articles, to which I also wish to draw your attention, and that is, the duty which the Government has undertaken of fixing, year by year, the fair and reasonable wages that ought to be paid to new immigrants, during their first engagement under industrial residence, whether that first engagement be for one, two, or three years; leaving them afterwards, when they have become personally acquainted with employers and localities, to make the best terms in their power, precisely as if they were old immigrants, and free to act for themselves in all respects.

23. The frauds practised by crimps, both upon the planters and upon the coolies on their first arrival in the country, always led me to think that the intervention of the Government, by regulating the first scale of wages, would be desirable. For it has always appeared to me that where the crimps exact large and unreasonable sums from their employers for the collection of coolies for their service, the employers, who can ill afford to pay such additional exaction, might possibly rely on the adroitness of the crimp to induce the coolies to accept smaller wages than they ought to receive, were they fairly dealt with and fully informed of their own value in the labour-market; but I always feared that the planters themselves would have interposed some objection to the measure as an unreasonable interference with their rights of obtaining labour at the smallest possible rates.

24. I am, however, relieved of the latter difficulty by finding that the more influential planters themselves, and the whole Chamber of Agriculture, who are their representatives, fully concur in thinking that it will be a fair and proper duty for the Government to undertake, in order to prevent all the dissatisfaction and disappointment which have been experienced with respect to wages on first engagements; and they have voluntarily come forward with their request that the Government would regulate such fair and reasonable wages upon some just and proper basis.

25. The Regulations, therefore, provide for the adjustment of these fair and reasonable wages, and regulate, in effect, that in all cases in which the Government Agents in India are alone instrumental in recruiting the labourers and making the contracts, the approved scale of wages and allowances shall be secured to all agricultural immigrants, although, where such wages and allowances are proposed to be improved, or varied, by approved equivalents, there may be a permission to a special agent to propose, and to the Government Agent to complete the arrangement to the mutual advantage of the planter and the immigrant, the special terms being, in all cases, clearly disclosed by the requisitions. At the same time all allotments in this island will be upon the same approved wages and allowances, and thus there will be an uniformity of terms in all cases of Government contracts and allotments during the first engagement for service.

26. In order that the immigrant may be more reconciled to a three years' first engagement, I have provided that, during the second and third years, there shall be a small, but sufficiently encouraging augmentation of wages, the cause of dissatisfaction having been hitherto supposed to be that the immigrant was kept at the same wages during his first three years of industrial residence.

MAURITIUS.

27. Where the skilled labour of artisans, tradesmen, domestic servants, or other special employés is to be contracted for, the Government cannot undertake to fix any scale of wages and allowances. The proposed rate must always be stated by the requisitionist. But, to guide in determining whether the terms offered are fair and reasonable, returns will be periodically furnished to the Indian agencies, and published in Indian languages there, as well as at Mauritius, specifying the maximum and minimum wages usually paid to each class of such special servants; and when the contracts are made by the Government Agent those returns will be his guide.

28. I consider it unnecessary to draw your attention to any other parts of the new "Regulations," as they speak plainly for themselves, and being in full accordance with the instructions I have received, involve no new principle for which an explanation should be given, and I hope it will be found that they fully carry out the spirit of the sanction that has been given both for the contracts in India and for the allotments at the dépôt in this island.

29. But if there be any points in which you consider that amendments should be made, or in which alterations may be recommended by the Government of India, I shall be quite prepared to carry them out, with the assistance of my Executive Council.

30. It has been considered desirable that both the law and the Regulations should be brought into immediate operation, in order that preliminary instructions should be given to the Agents, and that the first forms of sending in requisitions should be adopted, without delay, by those requiring agricultural or special services. In no respect in which alterations are likely to be suggested will there be any material (if any) alteration in these preliminaries. And, as I am in full confidence of receiving the entire acquiescence of the Indian Government in the provisional conditions which have been already transmitted for approval, and which are fully carried out by the present Ordinance and Regulations, I am anxious to give early effect to a measure from which such satisfactory results are sanguinely expected by the planters and other employers of immigrants under the new system.

31. I shall take care to watch the operation of that system very narrowly, and shall not fail to improve it whenever it appears necessary to do so, and to report its effect when the proper time comes for so doing.

I have, &c.
(signed) *William Stevenson.*

Encl. 1, in No. 23.

Enclosure 1, in No. 23.

Sir,

Colonial Secretary's Office, 24 September 1858.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copies of Despatches from the Colonial Office, relating to a new scheme of engaging immigrants in India for Mauritius.

2. The Despatch from the Governor of this Colony, to which the former are replies, appearing to have been already transmitted to the India Board, and the leading points applicable to the question of contracts in India being reproduced in the letter of the Immigration Commissioners, need not now be transmitted.

3. The Despatch and enclosures sanction two new arrangements:—1. Contracts in India to be obligatory in Mauritius; and 2. A power to the Government of Mauritius to make fair allotments, when it finds it necessary to do so, for the future prevention of a system of crimping, which has in some respects proved injurious to both planter and immigrant. In other respects the present system of immigration, so far as this Government may not find it necessary to improve it in any of its details, remains unaltered.

4. The allotment is to be limited to the first engagement, which cannot be for a longer period than three years, on the arrival of the immigrant in this Colony, when he cannot be a judge of his own interests. When his first engagement is over he will of course be fit to select an employer for himself, and the Government will no longer interfere.

5. These "allotments," when necessary, will be carried out by details, at the dépôt in this island, and the interests of the Indian will always be consulted, in any case in which they may fairly be promoted, consistently with his general engagements. It is not proposed to exercise it in opposition to any fair and *bonâ fide* selection, by the immigrant, of his employer, but rather to promote such selection in so far as it may appear favourable to his interests,

interests, and not to have been wrongly induced by improper agency; but wherever the emigrant himself has not been able to make *bonâ fide* selection of an employer, the Government will use its best endeavours to find one, according to the fair terms of wages at the time ruling, and rations, and according to the best judgment that can be received on the subject. And as the chief object of Government is to check abuses which have been prejudicial alike to the employer and the immigrant, it may be relied on that fair justice will be ensured to the Indian, in this respect, in the first selection of his service where he has not himself been able to make his selection.

6. The important point now for the consideration of the Government of India is, the manner in which this Government proposes to carry out the new system of making binding engagements in India, where planters and intended emigrants agree to make such engagements at the Indian depot, for the first period of their industrial residences. And in accordance with the Secretary of State's instructions, the accompanying outline of the scheme, which will be carried out by instructions to the agents in India, is transmitted for consideration and approval to the Indian Government.

7. It is confidently trusted that there will be an approval of this outline, in the preparing of which great care has been taken to carry out the plan conveyed in the Despatch of the Government of Mauritius, so far as it has been acquiesced in by the Government at home. And as the articles enclosed comprise all the information that an outline need give, there is no occasion to make any other than the following comment on any part of the contents.

8. With reference to the arrangements as to the recruiting agency to be employed, the injunction that no agent, or sub-agent, or recruiter of the Government be employed, or paid by any private person, has been scrupulously provided for; nevertheless it has been found quite impossible to dispense with those legitimate recruiters whom we desire to support, or to confine the recruiting to the Government agents alone, as that would have the effect of weakening the machinery, and of destroying that sound and beneficial agency, which is the best way of ensuring the most convenient and satisfactory arrangements for the Indian families, namely, that recruiting by confidential and experienced natives, who having been in this island, and in their master's employment, are constantly sent from here to their native villages and among their friends to explain the nature of the country and the service, and to invite their own friends and families to come out to the same engagement.

9. This was much pressed as the most favourable scheme of private recruiting that had yet been pursued, and which must, in any case, be continued within all proper and necessary restrictions. Therefore, under the sanction given by the Committees of Immigration, we have provided a double safeguard when that sort of recruiting is collaterally resorted to; one, by requiring every special recruiter so employed, to be named here to the Protector of Immigrants, and his name to be officially forwarded by the latter to the Agent in India, with any information regarding the recruiter, that the Protector may deem proper to transmit; the other, that the Agent in India shall give to such named recruiter a special license to recruit for his employer or employers, wherever he pleases, out of the dépôt, and to bring or send his recruits into the dépôt to be examined and engaged, and to sign their contracts there, and to be subject to all such regulations as the Agent may impose, for the purpose of making him subordinate to the rules of the Government, and of preserving him from any interference with the Government Agents there or elsewhere.

10. In so arranging these regulations, it is considered that the true spirit of the scheme sanctioned by the Government, has been fully carried out, and care will be taken, from time to time, to instruct the agents in India to be scrupulously particular in promoting the objects of these regulations, taking care that no subordinate agent or recruiter of the Government shall be in any way interfered with, but that the agents alone shall scrutinise the fairness of the arrangements for the proposed contracts, which latter can only take place within the dépôt.

11. Moreover, the agents will be instructed not to allow the Government recruiters to interfere with any of the men who may be specially recruited for their own masters by the private licensed recruiters, but the agents will be enjoined to carry out such recruiting in a fair and proper manner, and wherever the special recruiting by these licensed recruiters has been ascertained by the Government agent to have been fairly arranged, there will, of course, be no interference in opposition to it by the Government recruiters or the agent.

12. It is not to be expected that the outline now transmitted can comprehend all details, those details will be worked out at the agencies, under instructions, from time to time furnished by this Government, and if necessary, any future alterations may be suggested which may help to carry out the spirit of the present arrangements.

13. An Ordinance is now in preparation, and will be passed at an early meeting of the Council, for giving effect to all contracts that may be made in India, and making them binding here, and copies of this Ordinance shall be forwarded when passed. But as it will operate on all contracts made under these instructions, it is not considered necessary to defer sending these articles, until the Ordinance (which is only of local importance) is completed.

14. It is anxiously desired that these articles may be at once submitted for approval, and as care has been taken to avoid every chance of objection, none is anticipated, and the

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agencies at the different presidencies are instructed to act upon them so soon as it is intimated to them that they have been approved. Therefore it is made a particular request that in order to save time, you will have the goodness, as soon as the approval takes place, to send an announcement of the fact to our Government agents, at the three respective presidencies, so that no time may be lost in carrying out any orders for special engagements which may in the interval be transmitted from Mauritius.

15. Notwithstanding immediate operations may be given to these articles, this Government will be glad to attend to any future suggestions for improvement that the Government of India may wish to make, and will also, from time to time, communicate any changes it may desire.

16. The form of a special engagement, as well as of a general engagement, as suggested by the Secretary of State, is also transmitted. Instructions will be given for its amendment in any respects in which it may be simplified or improved.

17. In conclusion, it only remains for me to assure you that the Government of this island, while endeavouring to develop its agriculture, and forward the interests of the planters, is ever mindful that these interests are identical with those of the Indian immigrants, and any new measure tending to curtail the just rights and liberties of the latter might possibly give an ephemeral impulse to the prosperity of the Colony, but would assuredly end by destroying the source of that prosperity. At this period the major part of the population is Indian, and therefore has preponderating claims on the Government, moreover, it is clearly to our interest to forward immigration by means of the favourable and alluring reports of the old immigrants, and on this account it is that every magisterial appointment or other local measure has reference to the comfort and well-being of this increasing part of our population.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Humphry Sandwith*,
Colonial Secretary.

To the Secretary to the Government
of India.

Encl. 2, in No. 23.

Enclosure 2 in No. 23.

OUTLINE REGULATIONS.

1. ALL immigrants to be introduced from India to Mauritius shall serve in Mauritius for industrial residence and service during five years, and as much longer as will double the number of days of unlicensed absence. Every such immigrant shall, in India, either enter into a contract to serve an individual for a period not exceeding three years, or into a contract with the Government of Mauritius to serve for three years any person to whom he may be allotted by that Government. Both classes of immigrants shall, after three years' service, be free to choose any master with whom to serve.

2. Every immigrant shall be bound to obey all laws and regulations that may exist in Mauritius during any part of his industrial residence.

3. Any Indian, while at the depôt in India, may engage himself there with any person for service in Mauritius during the first three years, or less, of his industrial residence. The contract for such service, if made at the depôt in India in terms of Regulations, shall be binding in Mauritius in the same way in all respects as a contract of service entered into in the Colony.

4. Every person wishing to contract for services in India must send his application to the Protector of Immigrants in Mauritius, stating the number of immigrants he requires, from what Presidency, the district in which they are to be employed, the kind of employment, and the wages, rations, and allowances which he undertakes to give. Such requisition to be in a printed form to be furnished at the depôt of Mauritius.

5. This requisition to be forwarded by the Protector to the proper Government Agent in India, with full information as to the current rates of wages and allowances for the particular kind of services required, and any farther information which he may deem proper for ensuring fairness in the contract.

6. The Protector to transmit to each of the Government Agents in India, periodically, at short intervals, statements of the rates of wages and allowances current throughout the Colony for different kinds of labour, specifying the differences between the rates of wages, &c., for newly arrived immigrants, for immigrants of three years, and for old immigrants respectively.

7. The Agent in India, on receiving the communication from the Protector, to carry out its object with all possible expedition, either by means of Government recruiters alone, or with the assistance of special recognised agents for the intended employers.

8. Every such special agent must be recognised by the Government Agent in India. His name must be given to the Protector along with the requisition, and be transmitted by him to the Agent in India. Every such agent shall receive a license from the Government Agent

Agent in India, and shall be under the direction and control of that officer, who shall have full power to suspend and withdraw such licence in case of misconduct.

9. Where a special agent is not employed, the Government Agent and recruiters will alone be permitted to act; and no private person will be allowed to employ or pay any sub-Agent of the Government.

10. Every contract of service, whether general or special, must be explained by the Government Agent to the immigrant before being signed; and each contract must be certified by the Agent as having been so explained. Each contract shall be completed as soon as possible after the immigrant's arrival at the dépôt, and shall be signed before and attested by the Agent or some other lawfully appointed officer. Forms of contract to be supplied at the Agency.

11. The contracts, so signed, shall be transmitted by the Government Agent in India, with the immigrants, to the Protector in Mauritius, by whom they shall be registered as soon as possible after the arrival of the immigrants. Their operation shall commence from the date of registration.

12. Any immigrant, introduced under special contract, who shall refuse to re-engage with the person at whose expense he was introduced, may redeem the remaining period of his industrial residence at the rate of 1*l.* 12*s.* per annum. If he shall engage with another employer such engagement to be upon stamp of 1*l.* 12*s.* for each year's engagement. The amount paid by the immigrant, or recovered by the Government by way of stamps to be paid to the person at whose expense the immigrant was introduced, or to those in his right.

13. All immigrants not specially engaged in India, to be subject to allotment at the dépôt for the first portion of their industrial residence either to employers, to be selected by themselves, or to employers to be found for them by the Government of Mauritius, at the usual rate of wages and allowances, such allotments to be made under such regulations as shall be framed from time to time by the Government.

14. In the case of immigrants being introduced without special engagement in India, but having been recruited for individuals in Mauritius by recognised agents, the Government, in making allotments, will give the preference to those for whom the immigrants were so recruited, provided the immigrants are willing to engage with them.

15. Every immigrant who shall have made a special contract in India, and whose services shall not be claimed by his intended employer within seven clear days after his arrival at the dépôt, in Mauritius, shall be dealt with in the same manner as immigrants introduced without special contract. The expense of maintaining him during the period intervening between his arrival and his engagement to be paid by Government in the first instance, but with recourse against the party on whose requisition the immigrant was introduced.

16. There shall be hung up in conspicuous places in the dépôts, in Mauritius, and at the different agencies in India, notices setting forth, in various Indian languages, the current rates of wages and allowances at the time for the different kinds of labour common in the Colony, such rates being stated as for newly arrived immigrants, immigrants having served three years, and immigrants having served their full period of industrial residence, such notices shall also contain any further information which the Government may deem proper to publish.

17. The introduction of immigrants under the scheme thus specified to be subject to the regulations already made, or which may be made from time to time as to the introduction of a certain proportion of women.

18. The preceding paragraphs are to be understood as containing merely the outline of a scheme which shall be completed in its details by laws and regulations to be framed hereafter, and which shall also be subject to such modifications as may afterwards be found expedient or necessary.

REQUISITION.

I [*name and designation*] request the protector of immigrants to take the steps required by law and regulations for obtaining for me from the presidency of the immigrants following, viz.:—

[*Number of immigrants for each kind of employments to be specified.*]

I undertake to pay to each immigrant who shall engage with me, in virtue of this requisition, the wages and allowances following, viz.:—

[*Wages and allowances to be fully stated.*]

Proper lodging and medical care to be also furnished by me to each of the said immigrants.

A. B. [*applicant's signature*].

The above requisition lodged with me this
185 .

day of

G. H.

Protector of Immigrants, Mauritius.

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FORM OF SPECIAL CONTRACT.

WE, the undersigned immigrants from _____ to Mauritius, hereby engage to serve [employer's name, and addition] as _____ on the estate of _____ in the district of _____ [or otherwise, as the case may be], for the full period of _____ years from the date of registration of this contract in Mauritius, with double the time of any unlicensed absences, in consideration of receiving the wages and allowances following; viz.

Proper lodging and medical care to be also provided to us.

And we further engage, at the expiry of this contract, to enter into new contracts of service, one or more, with the above-named, or with other persons, to be agreed upon hereafter, until we shall have completed the full period of five years' industrial residence in Mauritius, with double the time of any unlicensed absences.

[Here follow the signatures and marks of the immigrants and of employer's agent.]

The above contract was explained in my presence to the said immigrants, and signed before me by them, with their names or marks, and by _____ this authorised agent of the said _____ at _____ day of _____ 185 .

A. B.
Immigration Agent at
for Mauritius Government.

[List of names and numbers of immigrants to the above contract.]

Registered at Immigration Dépôt, Mauritius, this _____ day of _____ 185 , by me,
G. H.
Protector of Immigrants.

FORM OF CONTRACT WITH GOVERNMENT.

WE, the under-mentioned immigrants from _____ to Mauritius, hereby engage to serve the employers to whom we may be respectively allotted by the Mauritius Government, for a period not exceeding three years after the date of registration of this contract in Mauritius, with double the time of any unlicensed absences; and we further engage, after the expiry of such service, to enter into contracts of service one or more with other persons, to be agreed upon hereafter, until we shall have completed the full period of five years' industrial residence in Mauritius, with double the time of any unlicensed absences.

[Here follow the signatures and marks of the immigrants.]

The above contract was explained to the said immigrants in my presence, and signed by them with their names or marks before me, and also signed by me on behalf of the Government of Mauritius, at _____ this _____ day of _____ 185 .

A. B.
Immigration Agent at
for Mauritius Government.

[List of names and numbers of immigrants to the above contract.]

Registered at Immigration Dépôt, Mauritius, this _____ day of _____ 185 , by me,
G. H.
Protector of Immigrants.

Encl. 3, in No. 23.

Enclosure 3, in No. 23.

Sir,

Colonial Secretary's Office, 24 September 1858.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that Her Majesty's Government has sanctioned a new scheme of emigration to Mauritius, which is now being submitted to the consideration of the Indian Government.

2. By this mail I have written to the Secretary of the Indian Government, forwarding to him the Despatches and enclosures which sanction two new arrangements; viz., 1st, Contracts in India to be binding in Mauritius; 2d, A power to the Government of Mauritius to make fair allotments when it finds it necessary to do so for the future prevention of a system of crimping, which has proved injurious to both planter and immigrant. In other respects the present system of immigration, so far as this Government may not find it necessary to improve it, remains unaltered.

3. The mode in which it is proposed to carry out the new system of engagements in India is as follows:

The party who proposes to make such engagements shall transmit to the Protector here a requisition, specifying the number and kind of labourers wanted, and the rate of wages and

and allowances he is willing to give. That requisition will be transmitted to the Agent at the Presidency mentioned, who will use all lawful means in his power to carry out its object either by Government recruiters alone, or by specially authorised agents of the intending employer. The emigrants so recruited shall be brought to the depôt in India, and shall then have fully explained to them the nature of the contract about to be entered into, which they shall sign in presence of the Emigration Agent. Every contract so explained and signed, shall have the same binding effect as if it had been made in Mauritius according to the law of the Colony.

4. The allotment is to be limited to the first engagement (which is not for a longer period than three years), on the arrival of the immigrant in this Colony, when he cannot be a judge of his own interests. When his first engagement is over he will of course be fit to select an employer for himself, and the Government will no longer interfere. These allotments, where necessary, will be carried out by details, at the depôt in this island, and the interests of the Indian will always be consulted in any case in which they may fairly be promoted, consistently with his general engagements. It is not proposed to exercise the power of allotment in opposition to any fair and *bonâ fide* selection by the immigrant of his employer, but rather to promote such selection in so far as it may appear favourable to his interests, and not to have been wrongly induced by improper agency, but wherever the emigrant himself has not been able to make a real selection of an employer, and wherever the Government is satisfied that an alleged selection of an employer has been produced by fraud or artifice, to the prejudice of the immigrant, the Government will interfere for the protection of the immigrant, and will allot to him an employer according to the best judgment that can be exercised on the subject.

5. By a reference to the proposed regulations (a copy of which I hereby forward), you will observe that no agent, sub-agent, or recruiter, of the Government, is to be employed or paid by any private person. With regard to private recruiting you will observe that we have provided a double safeguard, one by requiring every special recruiter so employed to be named here to the Protector of Immigrants, and his name to be officially forwarded by the latter to yourself, with any information regarding the Agent that the Protector may deem proper to transmit; the other, that you will be desired to give to such named recruiter a special license to recruit for his employer or employers, wherever he pleases out of the depôt, and to bring or send his recruits into the depôt to be examined and engaged, and to sign their contracts there, and to be subject to all such regulations as you may impose, for the purpose of making him subordinate to the rules of the Government, and of preserving him from any interference with the Government Agents, there or elsewhere. And in these matters you are requested to be scrupulously careful in promoting the objects of these regulations, taking care that no subordinate agent or recruiter of Government shall be in any way interfered with, but that you alone shall scrutinise the fairness of the arrangements for the proposed contracts, which latter can alone take place within the depôt. You are moreover enjoined not to allow the Government recruiters to interfere with any of the men, who may be specially recruited for their own master by the private licensed recruiters, but such recruiting must be carried out in a fair and proper manner, and wherever the special recruiting of these licensed recruiters has been ascertained by you to have been fairly arranged, there will of course be no interference in opposition to it, by the Government recruiters or the Agent.

6. In order that you may be able to furnish the emigrant sufficient information, as to whether contracts proposed to him are fair and reasonable, there will be transmitted to you from time to time, from the Protector here, full information as to the rates of wages of the different classes of labour common in the Colony, those rates being calculated for new immigrants, immigrants of three years, and old immigrants respectively, and it will be your duty to inform every emigrant, when about to enter into a contract with any individual in Mauritius, as to whether such proposed contract is fair and reasonable, according to the rates of wages current in the Colony at the time. It is further proposed that every immigrant who shall not be engaged in India upon a special contract, shall sign before you, and after proper explanations a contract, to serve in the Colony for the industrial period of five years, the first part of which service shall be performed in the employment of any one to whom the Government will allot him, in conformity with the regulations existing at the time.

7. You will also see, from the head of the proposed articles, that, in case of any employer with whom a contract has been made in India, not claiming the immigrant (who shall have contracted with him) within seven days after the immigrant's arrival in the colony, the special contract shall be held as abandoned, and the immigrant will be allotted in the same way as if he had not been specially engaged. You will easily see that the only object of the proposed rule is to prevent an immigrant, on his arrival in Mauritius from being unduly burdened with a contract made in India, with an employer who cannot fulfil his engagement promptly.

8. The different forms of contracts are appended to the accompanying articles, but these can be modified by you according to the exigencies of the service. In the meantime, you will have these contracts printed in English, and in the languages of your presidency, in order to be ready for signature whenever the arrangements are completed for contracts under the new system.

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9. You will also have forms for the rates of wages printed in the different languages, and these, duly filled up according to the information you receive from this, will be hung up in conspicuous places in and near your depôt, so as to be legible for all Indians frequenting your establishment.

10. It will, moreover, be proper to be prepared with printed forms of special license for recruiting agents, which may be prepared in the form of the accompanying model, with such modifications as you deem proper.

11. With regard to the transmission of emigrants engaged by special contracts in India no change is to be made, upon the rule that every such emigrant is to be sent in a vessel chartered by the Government; at the same time, it is very probable that you will be asked by planters in Mauritius to forward their bands in vessels, for which they may have made arrangements, and more especially to prevent their being mixed up with the general mass of immigrants to be introduced by Government. Whenever you can give effect to any such arrangements, you will do so, taking care, however, that the same rules are followed as to the accommodation of the men, their provisions, medical attendance, &c., &c., as if they were introduced exclusively under the Government system, and the charter-party of all vessels, even when thus arranged for by private parties, must be made with the Government, as at present.

12. In my letter to the Secretary of the Indian Government, he has been earnestly requested to convey to you the result of the deliberations of his Government, so that no time may be lost in carrying out the new measure. So soon, therefore, as you have received the approval of the Governor General you will, at once, make every arrangement in your power for carrying out the objects of the change, but you will not, however, be in a position to complete any contracts on the new scheme until you hear from me again.

To the Emigration Agents,
Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Humphry Sandwith.*
Colonial Secretary.

P. S.—During the past year, on arrival, the field labourers have obtained at the minimum, 10 s. a month, with abundant rations, and when free from sirdar influence, 12 s. or 14 s.

Town labourers, carters, &c., from 12 s. to 1 l.

Servants, dowries, grooms, tailors, about 1 l. on arrival, after the first contract 2 l. Artizans, as blacksmiths, tinsmiths, carpenters, bricklayers, &c., have not made themselves known on arrival, but there is an excessive demand for such, who at present earn 3 s. and 4 s. a day.

The men on arrival are engaged on the customary rations, viz.—

Rice, 1½ lb. per diem; dhol or salt fish, 4 lb. per month; salt, 1 lb. per month; mustard oil, 1 lb. per month.

FORM OF LICENCE TO SPECIAL AGENT.

THIS is to certify that you [*name of special agent*] are hereby licensed to recruit emigrant labourers for [*employer's name and designation*] in Mauritius, in conformity with the regulations published, and to be published, from time to time, regarding such recruiting. This licence is granted upon the express understanding and condition that you are to be under the direction and control of myself and my successors in office, in all matters, relating to such recruiting, and that we shall have full power to suspend or withdraw this licence, if you shall not conduct yourself to our satisfaction.

X. Y.
Immigration Agent at
for Government of Mauritius.

— No. 24. —

No. 24.
Governor Stevenson
to the Right
Hon. Sir E. B.
Lytton, Bart., M.P.
1 December 1858.

(No. 260.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Stevenson to the Right Honourable
Sir E. Bulwer Lytton, Bart., M.P.

Mauritius, 1 December 1858.

(Received 24th January 1859.)

Sir,

(Answered No. 172, 26 February 1859, p. 295.)

IN continuation of my Despatch, No. 211, of the 27th September, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, the accompanying copy of a letter from the Protector of Immigrants, giving cover to a declaration made upon oath by the former commander of the ship "Bengal Merchant," from which it would appear that the Commissioners

Enclosure.

Commissioners have been misinformed as to some of the circumstances stated in their report of the 25th May, which formed the enclosure of Lord Stanley's Despatch, No. 66,* of the current year.

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* Page

2. The Commissioners were informed that the "Bengal Merchant," after having been rejected at Calcutta as being, on account of general decay, unfit for the Government service, was, without previous repairs, taken up at Mauritius for the conveyance of return coolies, although she had leaked so much on her voyage from Calcutta that her cargo was thrown overboard, and the pumps could scarcely keep the water under, notwithstanding that she had met with no bad weather on the voyage.

3. By the statement of the captain, it appears that she did meet with very bad weather on her voyage from Calcutta, in spite of which she landed her passengers and the greater part of her cargo safely at Mauritius, and that on her return to Calcutta she was taken up for the conveyance of commissariat stores, after undergoing a few trifling repairs.

I have, &c.
(signed) *William Stevenson.*

Enclosure in No. 24.

Encl. in No. 24.

T. Hugon to the Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

Sir,

Immigration Office, 1 December 1858.

WITH reference to my letter under date the 9th September last regarding the Despatch of return immigrants, per "Bengal Merchant," in 1856, and the supposed unseaworthiness of that ship from her old age, I have the honour to request you will lay before his Excellency the Governor the accompanying statements of her commander at that time, who arrived two days ago, to the truth of which he swore before Mr. Esnouf, magistrate of Port Louis. His Excellency will perceive that the ship was taken up by Government on her return, which would prove that she was a seaworthy vessel. I would, in consequence, solicit the favour of this document being forwarded by the mail.

I have, &c.
(signed) *T. Hugon, Protector of Immigrants.*

At the request of the Protector of Immigrants at Mauritius, I make the following statement, which I declare, to the best of my belief, to be correct:

2. That in the month of May 1856, I left the Sandheads for Mauritius in command of the "Bengal Merchant;" that we experienced very bad weather in the Bay of Bengal, and that when in latitude about 10° south, and longitude about 86° east, we experienced a very heavy gale of wind from the south-east, with a fearful sea from the southward, which caused the vessel to leak in her top sides, in consequence of which we were obliged to heave overboard a portion of her cargo; we afterwards arrived safely at Mauritius, when out of about 7,000 bags of cargo landed, there were only about 250 bags damaged.

3. Many vessels of first class arrived at Mauritius (during my stay there) who had been dismasted, and had received serious damages in the same gale.

4. We took ballast in our lower hold, return immigrants in the between decks, with about 30,000 l. of specie belonging to various people in the cabins, and proceeded to Calcutta, where we arrived all safe, and landed our passengers and specie without any accident.

5. The vessel was then taken up for the conveyance of commissary stores and bullocks to Rangoon, and proceeded on her voyage to that port without receiving any repairs, otherwise than having her cutwater repaired, her bows, topsides, and decks calked. I left the vessel (previous to her proceeding to Rangoon), to join another vessel in the same employ, and, to the best of my knowledge, the vessel continued to be employed in the country trade, and was commanded by an European for two years after I left her, and during that time had not been in dock for repairs.

(signed) *John Cowen,*
Late Master of the "Bengal Merchant."

Sworn at chambers in the District Court of Port Louis, before me, the undersigned magistrate, this 1st day of December, in the year 1858.

(signed) *V. Esnouf,*
Jun. District Magistrate.

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Despatches from the Secretary of State.

— No. 1. —

No. 1.
Right Hon. H.
Labouchere, M. P.,
to Gov. Higginson.
8 April 1857.

(No. 313.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable *H. Labouchere*, M. P., to
Governor *Higginson*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 8 April 1857.

I HAVE had under my consideration your Despatch, No. 143, of the 14th of August last, reporting the arrival of the French ship "St. Germain" from Bombay, with 172 male coolies and 26 females, embarked at the charge of the shippers, and introduced into the Mauritius without conforming to the conditions prescribed in such cases.

I have obtained a report on the subject from the Emigration Commissioners, copy of which is enclosed for your information.

As you have been informed that the cost of this transaction has proved much greater than if the immigrants had been duly introduced under the provisions of Ordinance 12 of 1855, and as a considerable time has elapsed without your reporting the recurrence of any similar attempt, I trust that you are correct in your expectation that it will not be renewed.

Nevertheless, I cannot view the case of the "St. Germain" without regretting much that it should add one more to the numerous recent examples of successful violations of the laws and regulations of the Mauritius by persons importing immigrants under the French flag. I regret that each officer of your Government concerned in the case should have believed it necessary to yield, without contest, to this invasion of the law.

I shall not examine the details of the reasoning of Mr. Douglas, who was your legal adviser for the time being. But it does appear a strange anomaly, as you have justly remarked, that people could be treated at the same time both as free passengers and as "immigrants" in the technical sense, introduced under the Government rules. Whenever it would have been in favour of the labourers to be viewed as "immigrants," they were treated as free passengers; where it would have been in their favour to be free passengers, they were treated as "immigrants." If the existing laws really do admit of this mode of dealing with these people, they cannot be too soon amended; for so glaring an inconsistency, and the injustice which it involves, must be injurious to the character of the colony, and prejudicial to its prospects of a supply of labour. You will consult the present Procureur General on the subject, and will propose the requisite remedy if the law be so defective as has been supposed.

I lament that I cannot view the conduct of Mr. Randall, the stipendiary magistrate, otherwise than with serious displeasure. He began by misunderstanding the instructions to him, not to sanction any engagement at all of the unlawful immigrants, without special authority; he allowed them to engage themselves, under the erroneous impression that they were bound to do so under a penalty of 16*l.*; he passed a number of contracts, involving a transparent attempt to evade the law of the Colony respecting the duration of such contracts; and he justified the whole by declaring his belief that it was his duty to omit every security for the protection of helpless immigrants of a subject race, which was not enjoined upon him "by the law expressed in words." The Acting Procureur General maintained that the Governor could not prescribe to any magistrate the mode in which he should exercise any strictly judicial function. But whether or not that doctrine is to be assented to in that wholly unqualified form, Mr. Randall's duty of apprising the coolies of the nature of their rights and obligations was clearly not a judicial duty, but one of an executive and ministerial character, for which he was properly amenable to the Executive Authorities. Holding an appointment created for the protection of
persons

persons of humble and uninformed condition, it is difficult to conceive how he could persuade himself that it was incumbent on him to lend an office of so high a character to countenance an evasion of the law to the detriment of the weak. Mr. Randall says that he satisfied himself that the conditions were understood by the parties, but that beyond this the law was silent, and that therefore he thought it best to remain silent too, following the law as his silent monitor. But he knew that one of the parties was completely in error as to one of the chief moving considerations to the contract. The law could not reasonably be supposed to require him to see the people recommended to his protection enter into their agreement under a delusion.

Finding that Mr. Randall has filled his office since 1834, and not being aware that he has previously given any ground of dissatisfaction, I am willing to believe that his course did not spring from any desire to favour employers at the expense of labourers; and for this reason I shall content myself with instructing you to communicate the foregoing remarks to Mr. Randall, and to express to him my disapproval of his conduct.

I observe that the importers, rather than have a public notification to these immigrants of the admitted defect in one part of their agreements, proposed to cancel them, and to substitute contracts for three years. This arrangement, if it has been carried into effect, will be satisfactory. But you will have the goodness to report whether it has been completed; and if not, I must request that you will take immediate measures to acquaint these people with their rights, as it is not consistent with the honour of the Government that they should be kept in ignorance of their true position.

There is one other point to which I must draw your attention. I perceive that the Ordinance No. 11 of 1842, referred to in the Commissioners' Report, contains very stringent enactments against persons who introduce immigrants in violation of the law. I should wish to know whether this or any similar law is still in operation. If so, it would be the bounden duty of your Government to enforce it with the utmost rigour against any fresh violations of the law. Scarcely any penalty would be too large to levy in order to check the deliberate and systematic invasions which have latterly been made on the laws of the island on this subject. It is essential that you make them once more respected, for if the Government of the Colony be supposed to be too feeble to compel the observance of its own enactments, other Governments will be the less willing to trust their people to proceed to it, and the whole community, employers of labour quite as much as the labourers, will be exposed to suffer from the want of due firmness in upholding the authority of the Government and the power of the law.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. Labouchere.*

— No. 2. —

(No. 318.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable *H. Labouchere*, M. P., to Governor *Higginson*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 18 April 1857.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatches, of the numbers and dates noted in the margin, with reference to the stoppage of emigration by the Indian Government until satisfactory quarantine arrangements shall have been made by the Mauritius Government for the care of the immigrants on their arrival there.

I transmit to you, for your information, a copy of a letter, addressed by my direction to the Commissioners for the Affairs of India, on the proposal made by yourself to the Indian Government to send down an officer enjoying their confidence to satisfy themselves as to the fitness of Flat Island for a quarantine station, together with a copy of the letter received in reply. Copies of your several Despatches now under acknowledgment have been forwarded to the Commissioners for their information.

I much regret that the Indian Government should have found themselves compelled, having a due regard to the welfare and interests of the Indians, to resort to so stringent a measure as the actual suspension of emigration to Mauritius.

0.13.

M M

well

No. 2.
Right Hon. H.
Labouchere, M. P.,
to Gov. Higginson.
18 April 1857.

9 Dec., No. 213.

27 Dec., No. 235.

12 Jan., No. 1.

24 March 1857.
Encl. 1.

6 April 1857.
Encl. 2.

MAURITIUS. I well know what importance the planters attach to a regular supply of labour, and I shall be glad to learn that you have been so far able to satisfy the Indian Government as to lead them to remove the restriction. But beyond the communication already made to the Indian Board, I do not see that Her Majesty's Government can interfere in a matter which must be more properly left to be arranged between the Indian and the Mauritius Governments.

Enclosures 1 to 14.

I think it right to add, for your information, copies of the correspondence between this Department, Mr. Guthrie, and M. Antelme on this subject.

I have, &c.

(signed) *H. Labouchere.*

* Page 162.

P.S. I have since received your further Despatch, No. 37,* of the 20th February last, but I do not find that it renders any addition to this Despatch necessary.

Encl. 1, in No. 2.

Enclosure 1, in No. 2.

Sir,

24 March 1857.

WITH reference to your letters of the 6th, 7th, and 9th instant, respecting the suspension of emigration to Mauritius, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Labouchere to transmit to you the copy of a letter from Mr. Antelme, a Mauritius planter at present in England.

I am to request that you will state to the Commissioners for the Affairs of India, that the persons in this country who are most interested in the colony are anxious for the acceptance by the Governor General in Council of the proposal which is understood to have been made to him by the Governor of Mauritius, and that, without desiring in any degree to bias the decision which the Governor General in Council might see fit to adopt, Mr. Labouchere has no doubt that his Lordship will fully appreciate the importance of the question to the colony, and will be ready to adopt any measures which might seem calculated to throw additional light upon it.

Sir George Clerk, K.C.B.

I am, &c.

(signed) *H. Merivale.*

Encl. 2, in No. 2.

Enclosure 2, in No. 2.

Sir,

India Board, 6 April 1857.

WITH reference to your letter of the 24th ultimo, enclosing a copy of a letter from Mr. Antelme, relative to the suspension of emigration from India to Mauritius, I am directed by the Commissioners for the Affairs of India, to forward to you, for the information of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, a copy of a Despatch which has been addressed by the Court of Directors of the East India Company to the Government of India upon the subject.

Herman Merivale,
&c. &c. &c.

I am, &c.

(signed) *George Clerk.*

Sub-Enclosure.

Sub-Enclosure.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Court of Directors of the East India Company to the Governor General of India in Council.

April 1857.

Letter dated 14 Nov., No. 183, 1856. Proceedings relating to the suspension of Coolie Immigration from India to the Colony of Mauritius.

IMMEDIATELY on our receipt of this letter we took steps for communicating the proceedings which accompanied it, to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, together with an expression of our opinion on the subject.

2. We stated our concurrence in the opinion of your Government, that the fearful mortality among the coolie passengers on the ships "Hyderee" and "Futteh Moobaruck," was the result of the improper and defective arrangements made by the Government of the Mauritius; and that the treatment experienced by the coolies on these ships would have justified you in suspending emigration to the Mauritius, independently of the information subsequently placed before you, as to the determination of the Mauritius Legislature to persist in quarantine regulations, which could not but expose the coolie immigrants and the ships conveying them to the most imminent peril. At the same time, however, that we stated the conviction that the course adopted by you was imperatively called for, we assure Her Majesty's Government that your only object being to secure adequate protection to the natives of India, proceeding to a country to which your power of direct interference does not extend, the existing prohibition would be removed whenever the Legislature of Mauritius might show a becoming regard to the welfare of intending emigrants, and make the necessary arrangements for the purpose.

3. We now forward to you a copy of a letter from the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, enclosing a letter received by Mr. Labouchere from Mr. Antelme, a Mauritius planter

planter at present in England, stating the measures which the Mauritius Government propose to adopt for meeting the views of your Government as to the treatment of the emigrants, and referring to the intention of the Government of that colony to request that you will depute an officer to examine the arrangements for the reception of the coolies at Flat Island, in the hope that you may thereby be satisfied that all necessary provision is made for their well being while in quarantine.

4. We are confident that you will not fail to give such favourable consideration to the proposals of the authorities at the Mauritius, as may be consistent with the paramount object of protecting our Indian subjects from the evils to which they would be exposed from defective arrangements as to their landing and quarantine. At the same time we may remark that the sufficiency of the arrangements for the shelter of the immigrants on Flat Island, constitutes only one of the points with reference to which the suspension of emigration was resolved on.

Enclosure 3, in No. 2.

London, 31 January 1857.

Encl. 3, in No. 2.

Sir,

I HAD the honour to call upon you on the 30th instant (January), and in your absence was courteously received by Mr. Ball, who informed me that intelligence had reached the Colonial Office of last October, whereby the East India Governments appear to have entirely suspended the emigration of labourers to Mauritius.

Mr. Ball informed me that no answer had yet been received from Governor Higginson in reply to the case shown by the East India Government against Mauritius. The circumstances must be very strong, and the evidence pure and beyond a doubt, that would justify an act of such vital hostility against a British Colony of no mean importance. I begged of Mr. Ball to be permitted to see the case and the evidence of the allegations, which request Mr. Ball said he would submit to you. In the absence of Governor Higginson's reply, it may be useful in a general way to read "Overland Commercial Gazette," of Port Louis, 27 December, which I left with Mr. Ball for your perusal, and it seems a very fair statement. The material point is that the Mauritius people are as desirous as the Imperial or the Indian Government can possibly be to afford the reception and accommodation to labourers that can be proposed, and the money has been long ago voted and provided for the purpose.

2. I delivered to Mr. Ball, for your perusal, several letters, by which I intend to show the vital importance that the matter should be instantly arranged; a month's farther delay of the supply of labour from India to Mauritius may so disorganise our system as to throw us back for years. On my last interview with you in Downing-street, I found you so fully impressed with the necessity of regular supply of labour, and so willing to promote it, that I feel I have no need to dwell upon that point.

One thing, however, I beg leave again to notice, that Bengal alone has been the source of all these difficulties and casualties; Madras none; Bombay none; all healthy; all smooth. Is it not reasonable to infer that at Calcutta the management has been inferior?

Mauritius calls for a special agent at Calcutta for her own separate interests, and we are willing to pay for that agent's services, and to be responsible for his conduct.

We feel that we ought not to be considered responsible for an agent who, like Mr. Caird, has a divided charge and divided interest. It would be far better for all parties that the Mauritius agent at least should be separate and distinct.

I now leave this matter in your hands as the natural protector of our Colony of Mauritius. We rely upon you entirely to induce the India Board to inform the Indian Government that everything they ask for shall be done at Mauritius; and specially notice that to remedy the evils attending the suspension of 1856 supply of labour that more than double the average number will be required in 1857.

I anticipate the possibility of Governor Higginson having, by direct communication to the Governor General of India, induced a suspension of the October order.

But, as proverbially great bodies move slowly, may I be allowed to suggest here that you have it morally in your own power to direct that the accommodations, facilities, and amenities for the Indian immigrants shall be provided at Mauritius and ready for their arrival; that you feel warranted in advising the Indian Government that their precautionary act of suspension may now be recalled, and every exertion made at Calcutta to supply the accumulating wants of Mauritius.

You will notice that accommodation is already provided sufficient to accommodate 700 or 800 immigrants, and the location proverbially the most healthy within the tropics. These wooden habitations should be deemed sufficient in that climate, and are preferred by the natives generally to large stone barracks; but you see that no cost is considered where it is wanted to meet alarm in any quarter.

I have, &c.
(signed) *David Chas. Guthrie,*
Chairman of the London Mauritius Association,
No 9, Idol-lane, Tower-street.

The Right Hon. Henry Labouchere,
&c. &c. &c.

MAURITIUS.

Encl. 4, in No. 2.

Enclosure 4, in No. 2.

Sir,

Downing-street, 12 February 1857.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Labouchere to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 31st ultimo and 7th instant, on the subject of coolie emigration to Mauritius.

I am to state that Mr. Labouchere has not failed to consider those communications, but that he has not felt it possible to take any proceedings in the important matter to which they allude until the arrival of Despatches which are daily expected from the Governor of the Colony.

* * * * *

David Guthrie, Esq.

I am, &c.
(signed) *H. Merivale.*

Encl. 5, in No. 2.

Enclosure 5, in No. 2.

Sir,

Long's Hotel, New Bond-street, London,
3 February 1857.

IN December last, when the news of the suspension of emigration from India to Mauritius reached England, I had the honour of writing to you, stating all the consequences which that measure would inflict upon the Colony. Though you had not received at that time the official announcement of that suspension, you were kindly pleased to promise that you would ask information about it and occupy yourself of the question immediately.

As there now exists no doubt with regard to the deplorable event, and as the last mail from Mauritius informs us that the news officially received there has thrown alarm and stupor in the island, I hope you will excuse my again addressing you on this all important matter.

I need not tell you that Indian immigration into Mauritius being altogether under the direction of Government, the inhabitants of the Colony cannot be made responsible for the misfortunes which so unfortunately happened at Flat Island, and that it would be supremely unjust to make them bear the penalty thereof. They have deeply deplored those misfortunes. I am very far from making them an object of accusation against our colonial administration, and I prefer to believe that they resulted from circumstances which neither could be foreseen nor avoided.

However, although I acknowledge that the Indian Government could not be indifferent to the events which happened at Flat Island, it seems to me that they ought to have had sufficient confidence in the officers entrusted by Her Majesty with the Government of Mauritius to expect that adequate measures should be adopted by them in order to prevent the recurrence of similar misfortunes, and that they might therefore have asked and obtained full explanations from the Colonial Government before taking a decision so fraught with danger for the prosperity of the island.

This is still more apparent from the positive fact, that, at the very moment when the suspension was decided at Calcutta, there was at Flat Island satisfactory accommodations sufficient to receive 800 Indians, which I believe is more than the number of coolies ever put in quarantine together before.

The devotion of Governor Higginson to the Colony entrusted to his care, is so well known that I do not doubt that he will take prompt steps to enlighten the Indian Government and obtain the repeal of an order so fatal to the colony; but there are in India great interests which are not favourable to the increased prosperity of Mauritius, and whatever may be my confidence in the devotion of our Governor and the high impartiality of the Governor General of India, I am afraid that the suspension of emigration to Mauritius may be maintained long enough to ruin the colony or stop the development of its prosperity if you do not kindly consent earnestly to give us your powerful support.

I therefore take the liberty to suggest that you may be pleased to write to the Governor General of India by the next mail, urging him, in case he should not feel satisfied with the explanations which will certainly be given to him by Governor Higginson, to send to Mauritius one or more officers of the Civil Service of India, at the expense of our Colony, to visit our quarantine station and come to an immediate understanding with the local authority as to the final measures which they may think desirable to take in order to conciliate the quarantine regulations and precautions with that protection which the Indian Government has a right to expect from us in favour of the coolies, and which we are so willing and ready to give to them. The means that will the sooner put an end to the present suspension of immigration, which threatens to ruin the Colony, however expensive, will prove the best and most economical.

Allow me to express the hope that the deplorable incident which now so justly absorbs the mind of all persons connected with Mauritius, may not divert your attention from the important

important questions which I have had the honour to submit, in the name of the Chamber of Agriculture of Mauritius in a memorial addressed by me to your Honour, towards the end of the month of December last. You may perhaps even find in that incident an additional reason for multiplying the sources of our immigration, and making us more independent of the Indian authority.

MAURITIUS.

The Right Hon. Henry Labouchere, M.P.,
Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the
Colonial Department,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) C. Antelme.

Enclosure 6, in No. 2.

Encl. 6, in No. 2.

Sir, Downing-street, 11 February 1857.
I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Labouchere to acknowledge your letter of the 3d instant, relative to the suspension of emigration to Mauritius.

I am to acquaint you that Despatches upon the subject are expected in a few days, and that, when they arrive, they shall receive Mr. Labouchere's immediate and most serious consideration.

C. Antelme, Esq.

I am, &c.
(signed) J. Ball.

Enclosure 7, in No. 2.

Encl. 7, in No. 2.

No. 9, Idol-lane, Tower-street, London,
7 February 1857.

AFTER seeing you on Friday, 30 January, I wrote to Mr. Labouchere, referring him to the Mauritian papers I placed in your hands. I fear these documents have not met, for I have no acknowledgment. May I ask the question? I know this is a very busy time generally; but delay in the matter of supply of labour is torture to the Mauritian, and you must forgive our crying out for help from all quarters against the war declared by the Indian Government against that of Mauritius.

J. Ball, Esq., M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) David Chas. Guthrie,
Chairman of the Mauritius Association of London.

Enclosure 8, in No. 2.

Encl. 8, in No. 2.

Sir, Downing-street, 12 February 1857.
I HAVE laid before Mr. Secretary Labouchere your letter of the 7th instant, referring to one which you had previously addressed to him on the subject of coolie emigration to Mauritius, and I am to state that Mr. Labouchere has not failed to consider your communications, but that he has not felt it possible to take any proceedings in the important matter to which they allude, until the arrival of Despatches which are daily expected from the Governor of the Colony.

David C. Guthrie, Esq.

I am, &c.
(signed) H. Merivale.

Enclosure 9, in No. 2.

Encl. 9, in No. 2

Suspension of Emigration from India to Mauritius.

Sir, London, 6 March 1857, No. 9, Idol-lane, F. C.
I HAD the honour to address you on 31st January and 7th February last, and for your further information I placed in the hands of Mr. Ball a series of private letters from high-classed men of Mauritius on the same vital question.

In reply, I have received Mr. Merivale's letter of 12th February and Mr. Ball's letter of 3d March. They intimate (12 February) that you have not failed to consider these communications, but that you can take no proceedings till the arrival of the Despatches, then daily expected from the Governor of the Colony, which, on 3d March, Mr. Ball writes, are still incomplete, and that you must now await further information as to the measures proposed, or already adopted, by the Colonial Government to remove the Indian Government's objections to the emigration.

MAURITIUS.

It is my duty to submit that this course of "waiting events" may be perfectly just as respects the Governor General and the Colonial Governor, who, in fact, are the "contending parties," and who have not a dollar at stake, whether the suspension be removed now, or after years of delay. But how does delay act upon the interests of the public? We, the public, have the right to your first consideration; and it is my province to submit to the consideration of Her Majesty's Ministers that you are bound to enter upon this question, on which our existence entirely depends, without delay, and without reference to the misunderstandings between your Governor General and your Colonial Governor, who are merely servants of the Crown, and must do her bidding towards her people.

On behalf, then, of the "suffering people," I now pray you to proceed in this important matter.

So far as respects these interests, we are willing to take your decision at once upon the materials before you, rather than wait a day longer for the finish up of Governor Higginson's case, in answer to Governor General's complaint, which you have in full. Each day's delay costs thousands of pounds to Mauritius; and to delay is to destroy us, and that, too, without an object; and this I beg leave to record, and to make protest thereupon.

These letters under reply overlook my previous prayer for copies of or access to the Governor General and Council's case against Governor Higginson of Mauritius.

A. 29 Sept.

But the East India Company's Court allowed me that privilege; and I take the liberty to refer you to minutes by Lord Canning, 29th September. Up to this date his Lordship's views and conduct seem just. He there shows that he knows his own position, and arrogates no more. He declares that it is the right of the Governor of Mauritius, and not of Bengal, to enforce the quarantine, and the eligibility of the stations. He claims only to call the attention of the Home Government; meanwhile he concurs, though reluctantly, with the Lieutenant Governor's recommendation that no impediment to the departure of emigrants from Bengal should be raised.

16 October.

I take the Governor General's case to 29 September as very sound and sober; unfortunately he did not stop there. The Governor General of Bengal declares that the matter of business, viz., the quarantine, and fixing the localities for lazarettes, &c., rests with Mauritius and the Home Government; Mauritius indicated the locality, and voted 55,000 £. The Home Government confirmed these propositions, and no doubt on better grounds than the Government in India could assume to offer. Lord Canning did his duty up to 29 September, and had no call to do more.

If Her Majesty's Government think fit to prosecute all or any of the allegations against the Mauritius Government or any of her officers, it is quite open for you to do so; but if you have authorised the reforms required, and have reason to believe that the necessary conveniences for a proper reception of immigrants at Mauritius is provided for, you are surely bound to report to the Governor General of India that you are satisfied, and so get us rid of this suspension, which is now leading us rapidly to ruin.

I am, &c.

(signed) *David Chas. Guthrie,*
Chairman of Mauritius Association.

The Right Honourable H. Labouchere,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. 10, in No. 2.

Enclosure 10, in No. 2.

Sir,

9, Idol-lane, Tower-street,
London, 9 March 1857.

THE East India mail this day arrived here, and brings letters of 6th January to the London Mauritius Association, from the Chambers of Commerce and of Agriculture, with a copy of their memorial to the Governor General of India in Council.

These parties desire that their memorial may be instantly submitted here to Her Majesty's Ministers, and their consideration and decision humbly entreated; so that their community may be speedily relieved from their ruinous suspense in respect to immigration.

Sub-Enclosures.

I am now instructed to hurry forward these documents, in the hope that you may kindly give your wishes by the mail *viâ* Marseilles to-morrow, Tuesday, to the authorities of India, and also to Mauritius.

Mr. Guthrie prays for an interview.

I have, &c.

(signed) *David Chas. Guthrie,*
Chairman Mauritius Association of London.

Right Hon. Henry Labouchere,
H. M. Secretary of State for the Colonies.
&c. &c. &c.

Sub-Enclosure 1, in Enclosure No. 10.

David Charles Guthrie, Esq., Chairman of the Mauritius Association, London.

Dear Sir,

Port Louis, 6 January 1857.

WE take the liberty of sending you copy of an address on the subject of the suspension of emigration which the Chambers of Commerce and Agriculture have placed in the hands of his Excellency the Governor, for transmission to the Right Honourable the Governor General of India in Council.

It would be needless for us to point out to you the vital importance of an early and favourable answer from his Lordship, and we must leave it to you and the other friends of the Colony in Europe to take such steps as may seem most suitable for influencing his decision, whether by seeking the intervention of the controlling authorities at home or otherwise.

We would, therefore, request you to communicate with the members of the Association, and others interested in the island.

From the tone of the Indian press, it may be inferred that nothing but the virtual abrogation of the quarantine laws, and the reception of all emigrants immediately on the main land, will satisfy certain parties at Calcutta. To this point neither the majority of the Legislative Council, nor the population, is yet brought. It is not imagined here that the Governor General can be influenced precisely in the same manner; but numerous articles in the "Friend of India" newspaper, asserting itself to be the organ of Government, show a virulent feeling against this island, and indicate a hostility to emigration which can hardly be accounted for by the mere difference of opinion on such a question as the contagion of colera, and appear to betray the working of other motives, besides those put forward by the Despatch of the Governor General. This would seem to make it the more necessary to appeal at once to Her Majesty's Government at home; for surely they will not permit one of her Colonies to be ruined, because the inhabitants desire to preserve themselves from pestilence and death, while at the same time they profess and prove their readiness to take every means that can be reasonably and justly required of them for the reception and care of the labourers who may arrive with contagious disease amongst them.

It is hard upon the colonists; but you will observe that there is not one of the reproaches of the Governor General that can justly apply to them; all fall exclusively on persons nominated to their places by Her Majesty, or Her representatives, and on not one of whom have the colonists any influence or control whatever. If the chief medical officer, harbour master and others failed in meeting the emergency, or carrying out the wishes of the Government and population, either from incapacity or indifference, it ought surely to have been noticed otherwise than by the suspension of emigration, which is no punishment to them.

We trust, however, that on a more correct representation of the facts, the Indian Government, or, if need be, the Home authorities, will direct the reopening of immigration, and that you will be alive to the importance of its being recommended, in a fuller stream at first to make up for the interruption, and also without restrictions of a nature to nullify the boon.

We are, &c.

(signed)

Robert Stein, President, Chamber of Commerce.

Christian W. Wicke, President of the Chamber of Agriculture.

Sub-Enclosure 2, in Enclosure No. 10.

To the Right Honourable the Governor General of India in Council, &c. &c. &c.

May it please your Lordship,

Mauritius, 26 December 1856.

WE, the undersigned, are commissioned by the members of the Chambers of Agriculture and Commerce of Mauritius respectfully to approach your Lordship on the subject of a proclamation by the Government of India of 24th October 1856, suspending the emigration of natives of India to this Colony, and humbly to solicit your reconsideration of that measure, and of the reasons by which it appears to have been recommended to your Lordship's adoption.

We are aware that in thus venturing to address ourselves to your Lordship, we are taking an unusual course, but we rely on your Lordship's justice and humanity for a favourable and patient hearing of our prayer on a subject of such vital importance to us, and on which a resolution, which, if maintained, will inflict certain ruin on hundreds of innocent families here, and also on many English subjects resident at home, has been taken without our having received any warning, or having had the opportunity of submitting to your fair and impartial consideration one word of deprecation.

We are informed that the "want of proper measures for the protection of emigrants immediately on their arrival in this Colony," set forth in the proclamation, refers to the absence of sufficient accommodation for such of them as may arrive in vessels with disease on board; and that the measure has been more immediately caused by reports of the mortality which occurred amongst those placed in quarantine in January last, and which is alleged to have been greatly aggravated by the then insufficient preparations.

MAURITIUS.

The inhabitants of Mauritius will not deny that, had they shown themselves wanting in humanity in the manner charged upon them, the measure taken by your Lordship, however severe, might have worn the appearance of justice; and they would have had less reason for remonstrance, or for hoping to enlist your Lordship's sympathies in their favour.

But the facts, so far as they are concerned, are far otherwise; and could they hope that your Lordship's attention could be directed for a moment to a review of what took place here, and to the conduct which they themselves observed, and urged on all, as far as their means or influence extended, they would feel entire confidence in your Lordship acquitting them of any want of care, anxiety, and readiness to make every sacrifice in their power to succour and protect the emigrants. The local press, the debates in the Legislative Council, addresses to the Government, and the votes submitted to, and now sanctioned by Her Majesty's Government, abundantly show that the inhabitants of Mauritius, from the highest to the lowest, were cheerfully ready to make every effort, and incur every outlay for the reception and care of such emigrants as might unfortunately arrive with sickness amongst them. And, if it be borne in mind that when, after an interval of 35 years, cholera broke out amongst us in 1854, the acting Governor, who was himself stricken with the disease, remained but a short time in office, giving the reins to a temporary successor; that our Governor had returned from Europe but a short time before the disease was again brought to our shores, it will cause less surprise and blame that the preparations to meet the visitation were not so complete as they now are.

Uncertainties as to the best means of insuring the requisite conditions of quarantine, combining assurance against dangerous communication with due accommodation, shelter and attendance, existed; the necessary references of all the money votes and other steps to be taken, to Her Majesty's Government, had occasioned delays; but none more deeply than your memorialists regretted these delays, none more urgently called on the authorities to lose no time, and to spare no sacrifice and exertion, amply to provide for the comfort and care of such emigrants as might arrive with disease amongst them.

Unhappily from a series of circumstances which your memorialists could not control, but which are not likely to occur in combination again, the preparations projected had not been completed when the ships "Futteh Mumbarrack" and "Hydere" arrived off our harbour, with much and various sickness on board, cholera amongst other dangerous and infectious maladies. Each ship had lost 22 lives during the voyage; the ship's doctor afterwards avowed that the people came on board in a very sickly and weak condition. The English medical man sent to the quarantine ground, reported that a third of their passengers were already struck with disease. It could hardly have been expected, therefore, that amongst persons already so affected and predisposed, in whatever circumstances or conditions they might have been placed, sickness would not continue its fatal course; but deplorable as was the loss of life amongst these passengers, a larger proportion of loss amongst English troops has occurred, from the prevalence of epidemic disease in India and various parts of the world, in spite of every precautionary and remedial measure.

It has been asserted that these passengers fell victims to want of food and water, the truth of which your Lordship will be able to judge of, by referring to an investigation made here in virtue of an ordinance obtained from the local Government, and sanctioned by Her Majesty on the recommendation of his Excellency the Governor, expressly conferring power to examine witnesses upon oath, and get at the truth.

Deploring, as we do, the suffering that occurred, and of which, and of its causes, exaggerated and perverted statements were made, to serve a purpose, we would beg now respectfully to assure your Lordship that great progress has been made in preparing ample accommodation for such emigrants as may be placed in quarantine, not, as has been asserted, on a naked, arid, and unhealthy rock, but on an island the salubrity of which is well known; where there is a plentiful and never-failing supply of fresh water, and where henceforward everything needful will exist in abundance; cottages have been already built to receive in comfort more than 800 people—a larger number than has ever been, or is likely to be, in quarantine at one time. Her Majesty, on application from the Colony, has been pleased to appoint an English physician to reside upon the spot as superintendent. The buildings and accommodations will be further extended if necessary; those only which have in view, not the shelter and comfort of the immigrants, but the means of lodging the guard, to prevent communication, are incomplete.

Landing places, to make the island easily accessible at all times, after a careful re-examination by the harbour master, assisted by the new head of the engineer department (Captain Mann, of the Royal Engineers), and the master of Her Majesty's ship "Castor," have been planned, and can be completed in three months; and telegraph stations have been already established, by means of which communication from the quarantine ground to the head of the Government is constant and instantaneous.

We observe that an anonymous letter, published here, stating that any communication with Flat Island has been impossible for a period of 80 days at a time, had been brought to your Lordship's notice, and not unnaturally had arrested your Lordship's attention. The exaggerations of this letter, and the motives for it, were so well understood here, that at the time no one attached any importance to it, nor thought it worth while to contradict it. The truth is, that it has never happened that a landing could not be safely effected for a longer period than eight days together; and a continuance even for so long of such weather as to make landing imprudent has been very rare. In fact, the landing, even without the works now in progress, never offered more danger or discomfort than is constantly encountered at Madras, and the neighbouring port of St. Denis, and many other places.

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The best proof of this assertion is the fact that though Flat Island has been used as a quarantine station for more than five years, and many emigrants have been placed there at different seasons of the year, not a single accident has occurred to the sick or the healthy at the landing or re-embarkation.

That Her Majesty's Government, the military authorities at home, and the general commanding here, have authorised detachments of Her Majesty's troops to be landed, and stationed on the island, to serve as a quarantine guard, may be taken to prove that Flat Island presents the character we have ascribed to it, and induces the hope that the erroneous ideas of the locality which had been conveyed to your Lordship's mind may be removed.

In addition to the arrangements on Flat Island, separate accommodation and means of treatment are being provided on the mainland for emigrants who may be attacked by small-pox, or other contagious diseases of a similar nature, so as to prevent the possible accumulation of a large number of sick on the same spot. For these necessary works a sum of 55,000 £. has been voted by the local council, after receiving the authorisation of the Secretary of State; and it is certain that if science and humanity prescribe more to render the arrangements satisfactory to the Indian and Imperial Governments, more will be supplied.

For the inhabitants of Mauritius will be found urgent to have every means employed which can lessen the mortality, or mitigate the sufferings, of a state of confinement, to which in Europe, and in other English ports as well as this, persons arriving with dangerous and communicable diseases are unfortunately liable. They look upon the isolation of such passengers as a necessary precaution, not lightly to be dispensed with. It is believed here that such means should be taken, as under providence, seem calculated at once to provide for the care and treatment of emigrants arriving in ships with sickness on board, and to guard against the contagion spreading. It was felt by the people here, that it was more humane to subject the passengers of one or more ships to the inconveniences of quarantine in a healthy spot, and with every proper appliance and comfort, or even to detain them for some days longer on board a ship, which by the regulations, must be amply provisioned, and offer them ample room, accommodation and medical attendance, than to risk the re-introduction here of a disease which had swept off, not hundreds, but thousands in the space of a few weeks.

And though the present preparations preclude the chance of such detention again, we venture to submit to your Lordship that at the same time that emigration is suspended to Mauritius, it is continued to the West Indies; and that in case of cholera or other disease breaking out in ships for that destination, the length of the voyage necessarily exposes the emigrants to a longer detention than has ever occurred here, whether the ship has been directed to land her passengers at once in quarantine, or to cruise for a short period.

We need not remind your Lordship that, from Mauritius emanated suggestions, which have been adopted by the authorities in India apparently with the best effect, calling for greater care and selection at the embarkation of emigrants, greater heed to the quality and description of the food supplied to them, a better choice of medical attendants during the voyage, and the enforcement on the owners and captains of ships of more attention to cleanliness, air, and exercise; and the inhabitants of Mauritius will grudge no necessary additional expense to ensure still more strict compliance with these important requisites.

Your memorialists touch on these considerations, because they observe in the Indian press, and have reason to believe that representations have been made upon them to your Lordship, in a tone of hostility to the inhabitants of Mauritius and to its interests.

In some quarters, their opinions on the at least debated question of the contagion of cholera, seem to be held as putting them out of the pale of humanity, and to make them deserving of every misfortune that can be brought upon them; and a virulent, and to them, an inexplicable satisfaction is expressed at the suspension of emigration, as the proper punishment for their presumed wilful ignorance and inhumanity.

Whether cholera be communicable by human intercourse, as seems now to be the opinion of the most recent authorities in Europe, or not, the inhabitants of Mauritius have thought that, were it only doubtful, common sense and humanity requires the adoption of quarantine as the best human means to preserve themselves, their families, and dependants, and the 130,000 natives of India now settled on their soil from danger. Their conviction is conscientious and sincere, and based on what passed under their own eyes. They all remarked that during 1854 and 1856, there was no instance of the appearance of the disease on spots previously healthy, without communication being traced to infected places, and they could not shut their eyes to the striking fact that the Island of Bourbon, so near to Mauritius, that the summits of its mountains can be seen from our shores, which may fairly be considered as subject to the same atmospheric influences, and which has the same mixed population of Europeans, Africans, and Indians, remained entirely free from cholera during the months it was raging here. But, during that time, the strictest quarantine was enforced around the French island, and all communication with Mauritius was stopped.

It is moreover undeniable, that every outbreak of cholera here has been preceded by the arrival of one or more vessels with the disease on board.

We will not presume further, in this address to your Lordship, to discuss the question of contagion; we believe we have said enough to disculpate ourselves from the charge of perverse and wilful ignorance, which at any rate we should only share with some of the most distinguished physicians of the day, and with more than one of the medical staff of Her Majesty's Army who, after familiarity with cholera in India, had occasion to study and report upon its course here also. But, however well founded our own opinion appears to us to be, we do not cherish it with fanaticism, nor do we seek to injure or vilify those who may not share it.

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Your memorialists are fully assured that the sentiments to which they have alluded, cannot have had any weight with your Lordship in Council; but the charge of inhumanity to the natives of India, if believed in by your Lordship, may have such permanent and grievous consequences to this dependency of the Crown, as to enforce from us the most emphatic denial.

We do not know what proofs to select against such an accusation.

For 20 years, Indians in great numbers have annually sought our shores; many have returned to India with improved habits, increased strength, more robust, morally and physically, and with, for them, considerable wealth. They have encouraged their friends and relatives to come here in pursuit of the same advantages. Many, after a short residence at home, have returned to settle permanently here; and in all this time, we defy any proof of inhumanity or want of care to be brought forward against the colonists in whose service they have been.

That there do occur here, as in other communities, particular instances of neglect or hardship, is only to say that human nature is imperfect here, as elsewhere; but that any labouring population in the world is more protected by the laws and the authorities, or more generally well treated and prosperous would be an assertion entirely at variance with facts.

Much unfounded distrust and suspicion against the Mauritius planters did exist after the slave emancipation, but repeated inquiries, the statements of travellers and dispassionate observers, of officers of Her Majesty's Army and Navy, of distinguished members of the Honourable Company's civil and military service; the declarations of our late Governor Sir George Anderson, and of our present Governor; both intimately acquainted with the state of the Indian population at home; form a body of testimony as to the well being of the labourers here which we may boldly refer to as outweighing any contrary assertions.

By such testimony, by all that we have read in books of travels, or have gathered from the evidence before Committees of Parliament and from official reports in India, we have been constantly left with the conviction that the Indian here is at least in as prosperous and happy a state as at home. If we might trust to the representations of the Indian press we might even believe that in every respect, moral and physical, the condition of the Indian labourer here contrasts most favourably with that of the ryot in India.

We do not know how Europeans in India treat their native dependents in such circumstances, but it is a fact undeniable that here, notwithstanding our opinions as to contagion, the Indian labourers, during the recent visitations of cholera were watched over by their masters who gave them their constant personal attendance, and that many passed nights by the bed-sides of their sick labourers; applied the remedies, and chafed their limbs with their own hands.

It is with shame and reluctance that we feel compelled to defend ourselves before your Lordship by such statements; independently of the common feelings of humanity which their belief in the contagion of cholera seems to have been held a sufficient ground for denying to the inhabitants of Mauritius, it cannot but occur to your Lordship that their own interest must present some guarantee for the fair treatment of the labourers, on a continued recruiting of whom their all depends.

But, if unfortunately prejudiced and unfounded statements have misled your Lordship on this subject, they humbly invite the fullest inquiry, confident that such an investigation by any competent and impartial person whom you might appoint, would dispel all doubt from your Lordship's mind and fully confirm the assertions which they are under the necessity of making in their own favour.

Having thus endeavoured to place the inhabitants of Mauritius in a true light before your Lordship, as regards their feelings towards and treatment of their Indian labourers, your memorialists now beg succinctly to state the consequences which a continued suspension of emigration will inflict on the Colony.

It is doubtless unnecessary to inform your Lordship that its sole produce is sugar, and that that produce is entirely raised by emigrant Indian labourers.

The emigration was at first entirely conducted by private individuals. It was put a stop to in 1839, in consequence of certain abuses alleged to be committed in India. In 1842, under regulations made by the Imperial and Indian Governments jointly, it recommenced, and has continued uninterruptedly till now, to the great advantage of the emigrants themselves, as well as of this Colony, and of the trade both of England and India, as will partly appear from the figures which we shall have to state below.

The inhabitants of Mauritius could not but place reliance on the often-declared disposition of all parties, and every Ministry in England, to aid her Sugar Colonies in their competition with the slave labour of foreign countries; and the respective Governments of England, India, and Mauritius having, after due deliberation, settled the details of emigration, and officers having been appointed duly to carry out the regulations, they felt perfect confidence in an uninterrupted supply of labour, and that no measure so fatal to them could again be resolved on and carried into execution without warning.

Under this conviction, and in spite of severe trials and losses, the colonists displayed energy and perseverance to surmount the difficulties brought upon them by the changes of commercial policy. Encouraged by the repeated assurances of successive Secretaries of State that so long as the natives of India should be willing to come here and labour, there should be no artificial hindrance of emigration, nor limit to it, but the will of the people themselves, and the means of the Colony to bring, employ, and pay them, they strained every effort, and obtained new capital; improved and increased the machinery necessary to their industry, at the same time that they bettered and extended their cultivation. In this

this industry their whole fortunes, and a large amount of English capital, has been, and is employed, and this Colony might be said, at the very moment of this unexpected blow from your Lordship's hand, to be triumphantly solving the questions of free labour and free trade.

Your Lordship will see the magnitude of the interests involved when we state that our production of sugar, which was, in 1843, only 30,000 tons, has been raised to 120,000 tons, almost a third part of the whole consumption of Great Britain.

On this production, which was still on the increase, depends a large and increasing trade with England, and also with India, importing annually from the latter country, produce to the value of nearly half a million sterling, 800,000 bags of grain alone, and employing 70,000 tons of shipping.

If, unfortunately, your Lordship in Council should be induced to continue the suspension of emigration, not only will this prosperous progress be arrested, but ruin, rapid and universal, will fall on every interest in this Colony. Every inhabitant, merchant, or planter, and their families and dependents, and ultimately the Indians settled here themselves, must suffer, and English capitalists will again have to lament not having lent their money to develop the resources of a foreign, rather than a British Colony.

To cultivate the soil on terms which will permit the owner to live and do honour to his engagements towards others, it is beyond doubt that a certain number of emigrants are required to be introduced annually, to supply the place of those who return home with their savings, and of the still larger number who, as soon as they have saved a small capital, or find a more tempting occupation, quit agricultural labour. Already the bare announcement of the suspension of emigration, is increasing the rate of wages to a point, which will speedily make it doubtful whether it be wise to put fresh plants into the ground; and this rise in wages will, at first at least, accelerate the rate at which labourers will retire on their savings, and the number of available hands be diminished.

The consequences of a prolongation of this state of things cannot be either distant or doubtful. The crop of sugar, on which all the engagements and revenue, whether of the Government or of individuals, exclusively depend, will be made at a loss, and rapidly diminish. It is not too much, therefore, to say that a continuation of the suspension for six months, may inflict on this Government and on individuals pecuniary losses which it may require years to repair; and that its perpetuation will inevitably degrade this Colony from its pre-eminence as a self-supporting dependency of the Crown, and entail irreparable ruin on the inhabitants, for no fault of their own, without any authentic inquiry having been made, and without their having had the privilege of being heard in their own behalf.

Although these considerations might seem to be out of your Lordship's province, as charged with the government of another portion of Her Majesty's dominions, yet we appeal to your Lordship to look upon Mauritius as an integral part of the same empire, and entitled to the aid and sympathy of all who bear trust under, and owe allegiance to, our gracious Queen.

The trade of this island is, as we have shown, important not only to England, but to the empire over which you preside, and depends entirely on its production of sugar.

We will not dwell at length on the effect on the people of England of the serious diminution in the production of that essential article with the present enhanced price and limited supply at home; nor on the cutting off of the considerable outlet for Indian produce, and employment of Indian shipping.

But there is another side of the question, to which we respectfully request to be permitted briefly to refer. That is, to the effects of the suspension of emigration on many of the natives of India themselves.

Not to mention the hardship on such Indians as have gone back to their country to fetch their friends and relations to share in their prosperity here, and many of whom have left a portion of their earnings and their wives and children to await their return, we have reason to believe that the number of natives desirous to come here with the prospect of bettering their situation, has not diminished.

In a recent number of a Calcutta newspaper we read, "If the suffering" of the poor in India "springs from over population, it is possible to create a system of internal emigration to our own waste lands, greatly to the benefit of the revenue."

We venture respectfully to submit to your Lordship in Council that the existence of such a doubt would appear to justify our expecting your Lordship to be the more inclined to listen to our petition, and to permit such natives as may be desirous of seeking comfort and employment elsewhere than in their native villages, to follow their inclinations, and avail themselves of the advantages open to them here.

The suspension of emigration to Mauritius must tend to force the people either to the less salubrious climate of the West Indies, in spite of the risks of the longer voyage, or to the French island of Bourbon. It is well known that many natives of the British territories have been, and probably will be, introduced, through Pondicherry, into that island, where at least, they are not better treated than here, and where quarantine is most sensitively and strictly enforced, and where no quarantine, except at anchor or under sail, is possible.

We are assured that your Lordship would sympathize with the feelings of British colonists contrasting their own ruin with the full career of prosperity of a foreign, though friendly colony; a contrast which must be the more poignant from the fact that this prosperity should in part depend on the continued flow of labour from sources closed to themselves, and to which they might appear to be entitled to the freest access.

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We feel that we have intruded at great length on your Lordship's attention; but to endeavour to give your Lordship a more correct and favourable impression of what has been and is doing for the reception of the natives of India here, is our only resource. The only safety of the weak is to appeal to the justice of the strong; the moral responsibility of a decision will lie with your Lordship; and we cannot but believe that when the truth has been made known to you, your Lordship in Council will absolve us of the charges laid against us, and that your sympathy and equity will avert from us the calamities which seem so undeservedly and unexpectedly to threaten us.

In conclusion, we trust that we have proved to your Lordship—

That the occurrences at Gabriel Island in January last, whatever may have been the want of proper measures and foresight on the part of some of the Government servants, cannot be imputed to, nor justly visited upon the inhabitants of Mauritius.

That as soon as they were known to them, they urged on the authorities to hasten their exertion to give aid and relief.

That they have impatiently urged the perfecting of a proper lazaretto, accessible at all times, and fitted to receive, in comfort and with every appliance, a larger number of inmates than have ever been at one time in quarantine.

That Flat Island is perfectly suited in itself for a quarantine station, and can and will be made easily and safely accessible, at all times, by the works now in hand.

That Her Majesty has nominated a competent medical superintendent to reside there.

That the consequences of the prolonged suspension of emigration will be great hardship to many natives of India, and certain ruin to an unoffending British Colony.

But if any doubt remains in your Lordship's mind as to the truth of these statements, the colonists invite your Lordship to commission any competent and impartial inquirer to verify them, and to ascertain that measures to your Lordship's satisfaction are taken here "to enable immigrants to land immediately on their arrival, and, if they are compelled to keep quarantine, for securing them comfortable and spacious lodging, with proper food, comforts, and medical assistance during the period of their detention."

For all these reasons, your Lordship is humbly, but urgently, entreated to take this petition into your prompt and favourable consideration; to be pleased to allow emigration to Mauritius immediately to recommence; and to direct the agents at the different ports in India to resume the transmission of emigrants as before.

And we will ever pray.

(signed) *Christian W. Wiehe,*
President of the Chamber of Agriculture.
Rt. Stein,
President of the Chamber of Commerce.
James Fraser.
Ulcoq.
Js. Canonville.
C. Rougé.
P. A. Wiehe.
Edward Hart.

Encl. 11, in No. 2.

Enclosure 11, in No. 2.

Flat Island, Gabriel Island, and Coolie Immigration, Mauritius.

Sir,

No. 9, Idol-lane, 7 March 1857.

SHOULD Mr. Labouchere desire any farther information than is already furnished by Governor Higginson, from Mauritius, you may have reliable evidence from Captain Gillespie, of the ship "Lord Raglan" 500 ton ship, just arrived from Mauritius. His address is at Mr. George Duncan's, 147, Leadenhall-street.

Captain Gillespie has been familiar for years with the navigation and anchorages of these localities. Also in the transport of coolies, and is one on whose evidence you would have satisfaction, inasmuch as his testimony will go to prove—

That by laying down moorings, the anchorages may be made perfectly good, both to windward and leeward of these islands.

And, secondly, as to landing-places on that island, Captain Gillespie will inform you, that for any ordinary purposes, the erection of jetties is quite easy, there being no natural difficulties.

It is thus the Bengal difficulties may be wiped off.

Were Flat Island not wanted for use, no one would think of laying down moorings or of constructing landing-places, and those on the spot are in better position than those distant, to decide remedies the best fitted to the contingencies.

John Ball, Esq., M. P.,
&c. &c. &c.

I remain, &c.
(signed) *David Chas. Guthrie.*

Enclosure 12, in No. 2.

Sir,

Downing-street, 17 March 1857.

Encl. 12, in No. 2.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Labouchere to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 6th, 7th and 9th instant, on the subject of the suspension of emigration of coolies to Mauritius, ordered by the Governor-General of India in Council.

I am to state that it rests with the Government of India, and not with the Secretary of State for the Colonies to decide whether the arrangements made for the treatment of Indian immigrants in any colony are such as will induce the Indian Government to permit the departure of the coolies from India, and it is impossible for Mr. Labouchere to express even an opinion on the subject while he is ignorant of the reply made by the Mauritius Government to the Despatch of the Governor-General, or of the arrangement which they propose now to establish. The Mauritius Government has very properly placed itself in direct communication with that of India in order to save time, and Mr. Labouchere trusts that the proposals of the Mauritius Government may have been found satisfactory, but as he has no authentic intelligence of what they are, he can of course express no opinion upon them.

With respect to the evidence of Captain Gillespie which you propose to adduce, it will be impossible for Mr. Labouchere to form any conclusions from partial statements which may be made either for or against the propriety of retaining that island as a quarantine station, but he will be glad to receive and transmit for the consideration of the Government of India any reliable testimony which may be communicated to him in writing by persons having the requisite local knowledge.

The memorial from the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce to the Governor General of India in Council, enclosed in your letter of the 9th inst., was received at this department on the 10th instant, the day of the departure of the Overland mail, and it would not have been possible under any circumstances to transmit on that day to the Indian Government, through the Board of Control and Court of Directors, so voluminous a document. But Mr. Labouchere observes, that this memorial has already been forwarded direct from Mauritius to the Governor General, and he has no doubt that it will receive from Lord Canning and the Council of India the attention to the respectability of the body from which it emanated. It is impossible for Mr. Labouchere to propose to the Board of Control and Court of Directors to found any communication on the subject to the Government of India, except upon an authentic representation of the views of the Colonial Government, and on a statement of the arrangements by which they propose to meet the objections of the Indian Government.

In reply to your request for an interview with Mr. Labouchere, I am to state that Mr. Labouchere will appoint a time to receive you at this department, but cannot at present name a day, as he is obliged to leave town for a week at least. But he desires me to apprise you that in his present state of information he has no opinions to communicate to you, and that it is in vain to urge an interference by him with the Government of India in a question on which they have, and he has not the means of judging, and on which they lie under a heavy responsibility for human life and suffering.

D. C. Guthrie, Esq.

I have, &c.
(signed) H. Merivale.

Enclosure 13, in No. 2.

Encl. 13, in No. 2.

Sir,

Long's Hotel, New Bond-street, 4 March 1857.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 3d instant, and I beg of you to express my best thanks to Mr. Labouchere for the readiness with which he has so kindly informed me of what he has received from the Government of Mauritius with regard to the suspension of immigration. I need hardly say that this all-important question continues more and more to occupy the attention of the Colony, and of all those who in Europe are interested in its prosperity.

I beg leave to forward a number of the "Mauritius Commercial Gazette" of the 30th of December last, containing the Minute of his Excellency the Governor to the Legislative Council, in which he states the measures he proposes to take with the view of satisfying the Indian Government.

His Excellency therein informs the Council that he intends praying the Indian Government to send to Mauritius an officer enjoying their confidence, who may visit Flat Island, and ascertain whether, with the works recently made or contemplated, it affords a proper place for quarantine. I beg to remind you that I had the honour of suggesting the same thing to Mr. Labouchere immediately after the arrival of the mail confirming the news of the suspension.

I therefore believe more than ever that is the present state of things. The Right Honourable the Secretary of State can without inconvenience put himself in communication with the Indian authorities at home, and with their concurrence write to the Governor General of India, urging him to send as soon as possible one of his officers to Mauritius, with

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MAURITIUS.

full power to come without loss of time to some satisfactory understanding with the local Government, and to settle finally that unfortunate question of quarantine at Flat Island. Such a letter, without committing Her Majesty's Government, might have the best result, and would be acknowledged with gratitude by the Mauritius colonist as a proof of the goodwill of the Colonial Minister in their favour.

Having visited Flat Island, which contains a beautiful even space of land, 600 or 700 acres in extent, and the access to which may be rendered easy by means of a pier or jetée in the leeward part of the island, I remain convinced that the Governor General of India has been completely deceived as to the alleged inconvenience against it as a quarantine station, and that the best manner of undeceiving his Lordship is to have the place visited by some officer enjoying his confidence. If this question is left to be solved by a protracted correspondence, unavoidable delay must occur, and the Colony may be ruined before the hour of justice comes for her.

I have, &c.
(signed) *C. Antelme.*

John Ball, Esq., M. P.
Under Colonial Secretary.

Encl. 14, in No. 2.

Enclosure 14, in No. 2.

Sir,

Downing-street, 26 March 1857.

I HAVE laid before Mr. Secretary Labouchere your letter of the 4th instant, and I am to acquaint you that a copy of it has been forwarded to the Commissioners for the Affairs of India, with the remark that the gentlemen in this country who are most interested in the Colony of Mauritius are anxious for the acceptance by the Governor General in Council of the proposal which is understood to have been made to him by the Governor of Mauritius.

Mr. Labouchere has at the same time observed that, without desiring in any degree to bias the decision which the Governor General in Council might see fit to adopt, he had no doubt that his Lordship would fully appreciate the importance of the question to the Colony, and would be ready to adopt any measures which might seem calculated to throw additional light upon it.

I am, &c.
(signed) *H. Merivale.*

C. Antelme, Esq.

— No. 3. —

No. 3.
Right Hon. H.
Labouchere, M. P.,
to Governor
Higginson.
18 April 1857.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable *H. Labouchere*, M. P., to
Governor *Higginson*.

(No. 319.)

Sir,

Downing-street, 18 April 1857.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 14th instant, No. 3,* in explanation of the causes which led to the great mortality which occurred amongst the Indian emigrants who arrived in the ships "Hydere" and "Futteh Mumbarrack."

I am of opinion that Dr. Clinkew's vindication of the delay to send men and materials for building huts on the ground of the danger to arise from so much communication with Gabriel Island and the lazaret is a very insufficient vindication, and it seems hardly consistent with his statement that additional supplies of food and medical comforts were called for by Dr. Finlay, and (as he leaves it to be inferred) furnished accordingly, about every five days during the progress of the epidemic; nor is it satisfactory that a single European and one native doctor should have continued to be the only medical attendants of the lazaret, when Dr. Finlay's reports, however meagre they may have been, must doubtless have shown that the extent of disease and mortality was far beyond the powers of any one or two doctors to deal with; and when it appears that a military medical man was ready to volunteer his services, and an adequate pecuniary inducement might very probably have induced other medical men to undertake the service.

I shall forward copies of this correspondence to the Commissioners for the Affairs of India for their information, and for that of the Court of East India Directors.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. Labouchere.*

* Page 170.

(No. 321.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable *H. Labouchere*, M.P. to Governor *Higginson*.

No. 4.
Right Hon. H.
Labouchere, M.P.
to Governor
Higginson.
21 April 1857.

Sir,

Downing-street, 21 April 1857.

I TRANSMIT to you for your information a copy of a communication I received from Mr. C. Antelme, of Mauritius, with reference to the discriminating duties on sugars imported into the United Kingdom, and on various points connected with the immigration of labourers into Mauritius.

I should wish to receive your report and opinion upon the complaint that immigrants introduced into the Colony at the public expense may, by repaying the cost of their passages, escape from all obligation to labour, and at the expiration of their first engagements may again commute the remaining two years of their industrial service for a money payment.

It may no doubt be inconvenient that immigrants, introduced virtually at their own expense, should come to the Colony as forming part of the annual quota of labourers; and if this is the case under the present law, there is no reason that I am at present aware of which should prevent the Council from enacting (as in the West Indies) that every immigrant introduced by Government shall be indentured for three years on his arrival. But I could not agree that such an immigrant should be debarred from the privilege of commuting the remaining two years of his industrial residence at the expiration of that indenture. As long as contracts for service are confined to three years (and I am not prepared to sanction an extension of that period), the provision is valuable to the coolie, and it cannot well be materially inconvenient to the planter. Nor could the alteration be made without a revision of the system established after so much consideration in the West Indies in 1854.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. Labouchere*.

Enclosure.

Enclosure in No. 4.

Encl. in No. 4.

To the Right Honourable *Henry Labouchere*, M. P., Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonial Department.

May it please your Honour,

1. YOUR Honour having kindly consented to receive from me a memorial on all the questions which I have been instructed by the Chamber of Agriculture of Mauritius to submit to your consideration, I beg to state what follows:

2. The first of all the conditions required to secure the prosperity of a colony placed as Mauritius under a bureaucratic government is to put an able administrator at its head. The fate of that interesting Colony, therefore, in great part depends on the choice of its Governor. This is the reason why I have so earnestly begged of you to persevere in the rule adopted since several years to send none but able civilians as Governors of Mauritius.

3. I now beg to call your attention to the hindrances which impede the development of the sugar production in Mauritius. The first is the scale of differential duties on sugar in England.

4. That important question has been treated in all its details by the Chamber of Agriculture of Mauritius in a memorial addressed to you, and bearing date the 25th October 1855. I beg leave to refer to that memorial for any information that you may want on the subject.

5. I cannot, however, help to repeat here what the memorial also says, namely, That sugar, as a general rule, is more or less fine in proportion as the process of its manufacture is more or less improved, and that taxing that sugar more and more, as its shade approaches that of the refined, is taxing progress in the Colonies, and creating a monopoly in favour of the home refiners.

6. I beg to add, that sugar paying 17 s. 6 d. duty is almost never sold in the British market more than 6 d. or 1 s. at most dearer than sugar paying 15 s. It thence results, that the inferior quality gives to the producer higher prices than the superior quality, which, in relation to industrial liberty and progress, constitutes a monstrous injustice.

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7. Lastly :

MAURITIUS.

7. Lastly: With reference to this point, I submit that it often happens in the colonial market, that when the sugar offered for sale is not decidedly under the shade paying 15 s. duty, the merchants refuse to purchase it, unless with a strong reduction in the price, under the plea that they are in doubt as to the amount of duty to be paid at home. Thus it is not rare at all to see in Mauritius sugar inferior in quality selling dearer than the one of a finer colour.

8. I now come to our system of immigration, and to the reforms which it imperiously requires.

9. Immigration, as you know, is the key-stone of our prosperity. Without it, our colonial structure would crumble, and our island, which now offers to the astonished eye of the traveller the sight of a magnificent cultivation, would soon become a desert, useless to Great Britain.

10. Up to this day the Colony has received its labourers almost exclusively from India. Since sometime only the colonists turn with anxiety their eyes towards the coast of Africa. The necessity of having in the Colony a resident population of labourers, the desire to create a new source of immigration in case cholera should continue to be introduced from India, and also the superiority of the African's labour above that of the Indian, demonstrated by the experience of the Island of Bourbon, have called public attention more strongly than ever to the question of African immigration.

11. I can, therefore, state to you that the colonists must have learnt with great disappointment that the Imperial Government seems to contemplate the suspension of African immigration. For my part, I do not hesitate to declare, that by shutting to the Africans the entrance of Mauritius, Her Majesty's Government would in reality be shutting to them the entrance of Christianity and civilisation, and that such a decision could not be too much regretted in relation both to morality and religion.

12. The Government seems to fear that in default of free emigrants, slaves or prisoners may be embarked on the coast of Africa, or that men embarked for Mauritius may be carried to slave colonies, or again, that other nations may accuse the British Government to defend the slave trade to other countries only in order to make it itself in the interest of its own colonies.

13. It is easy to refute those three arguments.

14. As to the first point, I answer that the regulations published in Mauritius having enacted that emigrants for the Colony can be taken on the coast of Africa only at places where there is a British consul or agent, and with the authorisation of the latter, it cannot be feared that prisoners or slaves may be embarked for Mauritius.

15. As to the second point, I say that the regulations of which I have spoken having prescribed that no ship can go and take emigrants without having obtained from the local Government a licence to that effect, and given a security, there is every guarantee against any illegitimate trade. But I go farther: I declare that the Colony would not refuse, as an additional guarantee, to bear the expense of an official agent for each vessel named by the local Government.

16. As to the third point, I shall observe that France, the United States, Sweden, Holland, Belgium, and I think also Spain and Portugal, having consuls or agents in Mauritius, and all those officers being ready, I doubt not, to declare collectively that there is no vestige of slavery in Mauritius, and that in no country of the world labourers are freer and happier than in that Colony: it would be always easy to answer any clamour that jealousy, envy or passion might raise against the British Government.

17. Let, then, the Government take all possible precautions in order that African immigration may give rise to no abuse. Let it impose upon the colonists, if necessary, sacrifices and expenses in order to ensure the execution of the regulations. I conceive all that; but it is repugnant to my mind to believe that Her Majesty's Government may condemn the Africans in an absolute manner, never to go out of their territory, and refuse to them the right of going to a British Colony possessing two Christian Bishops, in search of labour, true religion, and the blessings of civilization.

18. I shall not terminate my reflections on this important matter without observing that the Anglo-French company which has contracted for making the postal service between Mauritius and Aden, has chiefly done so in contemplation of the advantage which is expected to obtain from the transport of a certain number of African immigrants from Aden to Mauritius, and that should the company be deprived of that resource, it can probably not fulfil its contract with the Government. Thus, the Colony, without having done anything to deserve such treatment, would lose by the same blow African immigration, which was conceded to it in 1851, and a line of steamers placing it within 30 days from England.

19. I entreat you to be pleased to reflect seriously before finally taking a decision which must bring such serious consequences.

20. I now arrive to the system of immigration in general, and to the reforms which it requires.

21. Our

21. Our system of immigration has been conducted since its origin in conditions quite exceptional. Since several years only Government seems to understand the necessity of coming back by degrees to the common law.

22. By a subversion of all principles, the immigrant introduced into Mauritius for the wants of our agriculture, can, if he chooses it, escape all obligation of labouring by reimbursing to the Government, on his arrival, the price of his passage,

23. On the expiration of his first engagement, he can still avoid a second one, by making a reimbursement proportioned to the time wanting for his completing his five years of industrial residence.

24. If he finds it convenient during the time of his engagement to desert his master, or absent from his labour, that does not prevent the engagement from expiring at the time originally fixed. He is not bound to make up for his time of voluntary absence. All that the magistrate can do is, to deduct such time from the computation of his five years' industrial residence.

25. Lastly, if he feels inclined to offer his services for four or five years, the law interferes, and prohibits his engaging himself for more than three years.

26. The Chamber of Agriculture of Mauritius think that on all those points the law requires to be reformed.

27. As the Colony demands nothing but labourers to the immigration, the chamber is of opinion that the immigrant ought not to have the right to free himself from the obligation of labouring. The only question would be to instruct the immigration agents in India to explain well to the immigrants before their departure, the nature of the obligation contracted by them towards the Colony. The facility given to all the Indians of coming to Mauritius at the expense of the colonial treasury, with power to reimburse the price of their passage on their arrival in the island, has only served up to this day to introduce into the Colony a certain number of petty traders, who themselves take new immigrants in their service, and who are rather a charge than an advantage to Mauritius.

28. The chamber thinks also that the Indian ought to be bound, at the expiration of his engagement, to make up for all his days of absence if they amount to too considerable a figure each month. A discretionary power ought in this respect to be left to the magistrates, who might, according to circumstances, condemn the Indian to make up for his days of absence, or discharge him from such obligation.

29. But of all questions connected with our system of immigration, the most vital for the Colony is, that of the engagements of five years. I therefore beg particularly to call your attention to this subject.

30. In England a man can engage his services for five years or more if he finds it convenient. The coolie in India possesses the same liberty of contracting.

31. In Mauritius it is not so. The labourer, whether he be European, African, Indian, or even a native of the Colony, cannot engage himself for more than three years.

32. Such a legislation bears the stamp of the former distrust of the mother country against the colonies. It ought to disappear now that the condition of the Indians in Mauritius is known to the Government, and that the successive Governors of the Colony, chiefly Sir Lionel Smith, Sir George Anderson, and lastly Mr. Higginson, have all emphatically proclaimed the good and generous behaviour of the colonists towards their labourers.

33. At the beginning of the second Indian emigration, engagements were only allowed for one year. Thus it happened that the high roads of the colony were incessantly covered with gangs of men going over the various districts under the pretext of seeking for an employer, and spending in excesses of all kinds the earnings of their time of labour. On the other hand, the planter constantly employed in seeking new men to replace those whose engagement was ended or nearly ending, had hardly the time of superintending the cultivation of his estate, or the manufacture of his sugar.

34. It was under those circumstances that the Government consented to relax a little its excessive severity towards the colonists, and to allow the engagements of three years.

35. Experience has proved in a glaring manner that that measure has been as advantageous to the Indians as to the planters, Governor Higginson in his reply to the address of the inhabitants of Flacq (of which I beg to annex a printed copy to the present memorial), expresses himself as follows: "I can bear willing testimony to the beneficial working of three years' engagements, in the interests alike of the labourer and employer, as well as to the undeniable and now generally recognised fact that the position of the Indian immigrant in Mauritius is highly satisfactory."

36. I will add that since the engagements have been prolonged to three years the moral state of the Indians has so improved that crime has considerably diminished in the Colony.

37. But that is not sufficient. The planters still complain of the necessity under which they are of renewing their labourers every three years. Hardly have they had time to form efficient men with the unskilled immigrants arriving from India, that they are condemned to begin the painful work again.

MAURITIUS.

38. To be able to depend upon the regular and continuous labour of the Indian during his five years of industrial residence, such is the most fervent wish of the planters. But you must not suppose, however, that they mean to take advantage of the experience gained by the Indians during their first years of labour without giving them in return a proportional pay. They well understand that they should have, in case of the engagements of five years being granted, to pay wages gradually increasing every year. And here I must say for your information, that the newly arrived Indians never contract an engagement before the stipendiary magistrate without the conditions thereof having first been agreed in presence of the protector of immigrants. Thus it is not even possible to suppose that an unscrupulous planter may take undue advantage of the ignorance or credulity of the arriving men.

39. I have now to terminate my observations on our system of immigration by asking, in the most pressing manner, in the name of the Chamber of Agriculture, that you may be pleased to grant us an act of justice vainly solicited up to this time; namely, to decide that Mauritius and the West Indies shall not in future have the same emigration agents in India.

40. The present system, which consists in having in India the same emigration agents for all the colonies, opens the door to great abuse.

41. It is not doubtful that all the coolies prefer to emigrate for Mauritius, which is almost at the door of India, than to go to the West Indies, the distance of which frightens them.

42. It often arrives, however, that thousands of emigrants embark for the West Indies before Mauritius has received the number of men demanded at the expense of the Treasury or of private parties. Is it not, therefore, evident that the emigration agent must find himself in the necessity, in order to be able to satisfy the West Indies, to stop, diminish, or impede the emigration to Mauritius?

43. It is against such an abuse, and not against imaginary abuse, that the Indian ought to be protected.

44. To that it is objected that a competition would be created between the colonies. Well, why prevent that? Is it not the right of the Indians to profit by it?

45. The consideration of economy to the colonies is also put forward. But Mauritius declares its readiness to bear the expense of a separate agent. Let your Honour not forget that a man cannot properly serve two masters at the same time.

46. I stop here, not to tire your attention with too many questions. The reforms which I here solicit are not, however, the only ones which the inhabitants of Mauritius call in their wishes; but they are those of which the agricultural body the more strongly feels the necessity, and which I have been more particularly instructed to submit to your favourable consideration.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Crt. Antelme.*

— No. 5. —

(No. 335.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable *H. Labouchere*, M.P.
to Governor *Higginson*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 6 May 1857.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 28th January last, No. 22,* forwarding copies of a letter and resolutions adopted by the Chamber of Agriculture of Mauritius, requesting, in consequence of the recent stoppage of emigration from India to that island, that regulations for the introduction of Chinese labourers may be authorised. You also state that the chamber are desirous that an agent should be sent to Siam, from whence it is believed that a considerable number of free emigrants may be obtained.

I have also had under my consideration a resolution of the Court of Policy of British Guiana, a copy of which is herewith enclosed.

I am not disposed under any circumstances to make a change in existing arrangements during the course of the present year; but I have it under my consideration whether it may not be desirable for the future to enforce the rule of restricting the emigration from India to Mauritius and the West Indies respectively to two separate seasons of six months each; at the same time conceding the request of the Chamber of Agriculture of Mauritius, if, upon further consideration the Legislative Council should be prepared to incur the necessary expense for the appointment of a separate emigration agent for Mauritius at Calcutta and Madras.

I shall

No. 5.
Right Hon. H.
Labouchere, M.P.
to Governor
Higginson.
6 May 1857.

* Page 173.

I shall be desirous, however, of receiving a statement of your own views and those of the Council before arriving at a final decision on the subject. MAURITIUS.

I shall request the Earl of Clarendon to call the attention of the Earl of Elgin as soon as more pressing business will allow it) to the circumstances which have hitherto impeded the emigration of Chinese to the West Indies, and to the possibility of establishing a continuous supply of Chinese emigrants not only to the West Indies but to Mauritius.

Her Majesty's Government will not object to your submitting to the Legislative Council the proposal to send an authorised agent to Siam or other countries east of the Bay of Bengal, for the purpose of collecting information respecting the means of procuring immigrants from that region; but with the distinct understanding that no arrangements for such a purpose shall be made without the previous consent of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. Labouchere.*

— No. 6. —

(No. 349.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable *H. Labouchere*, M.P.,
to Governor *Higginson*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 19 May 1857.

WITH reference to my Despatch of the 18th ultimo, No. 318,* relating to the stoppage of emigration to Mauritius by the Indian Government, I transmit to you for your information a copy of a letter from the Commissioners for the Affairs of India, with copy of one from the Court of East India Directors on the subject.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. Labouchere.*

No. 6.
Right Hon. H.
Labouchere, M.P.
to Governor
Higginson.
19 May 1857.
* Page 257.

9 May 1857.
Enclosure.

Enclosure in No. 6.

Encl. in No. 6.

Sir,

India Board 9 May 1857.

THE enclosures to your letter of the 28th ultimo, relating to the stoppage of emigration to Mauritius having been forwarded to the Court of Directors of the East India Company, I am directed by the Commissioners for the Affairs of India to transmit to you a copy of a letter which they have received from Sir James Melvill, containing the observations of the Court upon the documents in question.

H. Merivale, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Wm. Leach.*

Sub-Enclosure.
7 May 1857.

Sub-Enclosure.

Sir,

East India House, 7 May 1857.

I HAVE laid before the Court of Directors Sir George Clerk's letter, dated 2d instant, forwarding, for the Court's information, copies of documents received from Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, relating to the mortality of Indian emigrants on board the ships "Hyderee" and "Futteh Moobaruck," while in quarantine, and to the stoppage, by the Government of India, of the emigration of Indian labourers to the Mauritius.

These papers do not appear to the Court to call for many remarks, their sentiments on the subject to which they relate, having been so fully declared in my letter, dated 29 January last.

The object of the Governor of the Mauritius in respect to the point first mentioned, is to vindicate the executive administration of the Colony from the charge of wilful neglect and indifference to the sufferings of the unfortunate immigrants while detained in quarantine on Flat and Gabriel Islands. The Court do not believe that it was ever intended to bring the charge of indifference against the Governor of the Mauritius. The circumstances stated by his Excellency, so far as they exculpate himself and the officials of the Colony from personal blame, tend to show the evils of the system of quarantine which they had to administer, and thus to justify the step taken by the Government of India, in suspending emigration to the island till more satisfactory arrangements should be made.

MAURITIUS.

It will rest with the Government of India to decide on the sufficiency of the amendments in the quarantine system which the Legislature of the Mauritius has declared itself willing to adopt. The Court cannot but entertain serious doubts whether that Government will consent to remove the existing prohibition against emigration unless the colonial authorities consent to the establishment of a lazaret on the main land, to be available when Flat Island shall be inaccessible by reason of weather. It is admitted that the great delay in providing shelter and improved food for the suffering immigrants by the "Hydere" and "Futteh Moobaruck" arose in great part at least from the impossibility of communicating with Flat Island, and the Court are of opinion that the test of actual experience may fairly be required by the Government of India, before taking any step based on the assumption that the works for facilitating access to the island will have proved as successful as the Government of the Mauritius seems to anticipate.

I have, &c.
(signed) *James C. Melvill.*

The Secretary, India Board.

— No. 7. —

No. 350.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable *H. Labouchere, M.P.*
to Governor *Higginson.*

Sir,

Downing-street, 19 May 1857.

WITH reference to my Despatch of the 8th ultimo, No. 313,* on the case of the French ship, "St. Germain," which arrived at Mauritius with coolies from Bombay, I transmit to you for your information a copy of a letter from the Commissioners for the Affairs of India, with copy of one from the Court of East India directors on the subject.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. Labouchere.*

Encl. in No. 7.

Enclosure in No. 7.

Sir,

India Board, 12 May 1857.

WITH reference to your letter of the 24th ultimo, relative to the introduction of emigrants as free passengers into Mauritius, I am directed by the Commissioners for the Affairs of India, to forward to you for the information of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, a copy of a letter which they have received from Sir James Melvill, together with copies of two Despatches, which have been addressed by the Court of Directors of the East India Company to the Governments of India and Bombay.

Mr. Labouchere will observe, that the Court of Directors are most desirous that the introduction of Indian labourers into the Colonies should be most rigidly prevented, except through the authorised emigration agents, and they have accordingly instructed the Government of India not to renew emigration to Mauritius, except upon the conditions already entered into between the respective Governments.

In this view, I am desired to add, the Board fully concur.

H. Merivale, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

I am, &c.
(signed) *George Clerk.*

Sub-Enclosure, No. 1.

Sir,

East India House, 7 May 1857.

I HAVE laid before the Court of Directors Sir George Clerk's letter, dated 30th ultimo, forwarding a copy of a Despatch from the Governor of the Mauritius, and of its enclosure, together with the reply thereto from Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, relative to the introduction of certain coolies into the Mauritius by French ships from Bombay and Aden, without conforming to the conditions prescribed by law.

2 The Court have learned, with feelings of great dissatisfaction, the occurrence of these cases of violations of law; and they direct me to transmit to you, for the approval of the Board, drafts of paragraphs on the subject to the Governments of India and Bombay.

3. The instructions of the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governor of the Mauritius, as to the treatment of coolies from India arriving hereafter in the Colony, under arrangements made by private persons, would be quite satisfactory to the Court, if they were prepared to acquiesce in any plan of emigration, independent of Government control

control in India. To any such plan, however, the Court are, as they ever have been, strongly opposed. They have sanctioned in communication with the Government of India a scheme of emigration, in which protection against fraud and ill-treatment is, as far as possible, afforded to the intending emigrant: and they think that they have a right to expect that in return for their assent to such a system, the colonies which benefit by it, should not only not encourage, but should use their influence and authority to prevent any plan for obtaining Indian labourers by any other means. The Court accordingly propose to instruct the Government of India to require an assurance that this course will be taken in the Mauritius, before the existing suspension of emigration to that Colony is removed.

(signed) *James C. Melvill.*

The Secretary, India Board.

Sub-Enclosure, No. 2.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Court of Directors of the East India Company to the Governor-General of India in Council.

East India House, May 1857.

Para. 1. WE forward to you, a number in the packet, a copy of the accompanying correspondence, which we have received from Her Majesty's Government, consisting of a Despatch from the Governor of the Mauritius, with its enclosures, and of the reply thereto of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, relative to the introduction into the Mauritius, by French ships, without conforming to the conditions prescribed by law, of Indian coolies from Bombay and Aden.

2. We likewise forward to you a copy of a Despatch which we have addressed to the Government of Bombay on this subject, in which, as you will observe, we have expressed our dissatisfaction that these occurrences should have taken place, and have desired that a report be made to us of the circumstances of both cases. You will issue such further instructions, with a view to guarding against future violations of the laws relating to the shipment of emigrants from the Bombay Presidency as you may think necessary.

3. With regard to the instructions of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies as to the future treatment of Indian labourers taken to the Mauritius by means of private arrangements, and without the intervention of the authorised emigration agents, we are not disposed in any way to acquiesce in such a plan of emigration as is here suggested. The system of emigration, as sanctioned by us, in communication with your Government, contains such regulations only as are considered necessary for securing intending emigrants against fraud and ill-treatment; and we are of opinion that any Colony which benefits by it, ought to feel strongly the obligation to discountenance, and to repress any other mode of obtaining Indian labourers. In any correspondence, therefore, which you may have with the Governor of the Mauritius, with respect to the removal of the existing suspension of emigration to that Colony, we direct that you require, as a previous condition to the renewal of emigration, that the importation of Indian labourers, except in accordance with the arrangements made between your Government and the Governor of the Colony be strictly forbidden, and that the prohibition be enforced by such penalties on those engaging in it as may be deemed necessary for securing the object.

Sub-Enclosure, No. 3.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Court of Directors of the East India Company to the Government of Bombay.

East India House, May 1857.

1. WE forward to you, a number in the packet, a copy of the accompanying correspondence which we have received from Her Majesty's Government, consisting of a Despatch from the Governor of the Mauritius, with its enclosures, and of the reply thereto of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, relative to the introduction into the Mauritius by French ships, without conforming to the conditions prescribed by law, of Indian coolies from Bombay and Aden.

2. The shipment of coolies from Bombay by the "St. Germain" was conducted by private parties, without the intervention of the authorised emigration agent, and was thus in direct contravention of Act No. XV. of 1842. The shipment of emigrants from any other ports than those of Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay, being forbidden by Act XIV., of 1839, and by the Act above cited, the deportation of the coolies from Aden by the "Glaner" was also clearly illegal.

3. We view with the greatest dissatisfaction the violations of the law which have taken place in these instances, of the circumstances of which we have received no report from your Government.

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MAURITIUS.

4. We desire that, if it is not already taken place, an immediate investigation be made into each of the above cases, and a report submitted to us without delay. With reference to the granting by the acting Commissioner of Customs at Bombay of a port clearance to the "St. Germain," we direct that an explanation be required from that officer of his conduct in giving the clearance, when it was known to him that there were more than 200 native passengers on board.

5. We have communicated this correspondence to the Government of India, from whom you will receive such further instructions on the subject as they may think necessary.

— No. 8. —

(No. 368.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable *H. Labouchere*, M. P.
to Governor *Higginson*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 29 June 1857.

WITH reference to my Despatch (No. 335),* of the 6th of May, I have to inform you, that, in point of fact, the attention of Lord Elgin has already been drawn to the question of the possibility of procuring the legalisation of the emigration from China of all Chinese subjects, whether male or female.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. Labouchere*.

— No. 9. —

(No. 3.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable *H. Labouchere*, M. P.
to Governor *Stevenson*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 7 August 1857.

I TRANSMIT to you for your information copy of a correspondence with Mr. Macpherson, in reference to the present state of coolie immigration into Mauritius.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. Labouchere*.

No. 9.
Right Hon. H.
Labouchere, M. P.
to Gov. *Stevenson*.
7 August 1857.

Enclosure 1.
Enclosure 2.
Enclosure 3.

Encl. 1, in No. 9.

Enclosure 1, in No. 9.

To the Right Honourable *Henry Labouchere*, &c. &c. &c., Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Sir,

3, St. Alban's Place, Regent street, 15 June 1857.

IN compliance with your wish, I now submit to you, in writing, the changes in the laws respecting the engagements and introduction of Indian labourers in Mauritius, to explain which, I ventured to request an interview with you, as affording the opportunity of conveying a more correct, as well as a more forcible, impression of their importance to the Mauritius planter than I could do by letter.

The first and most urgent change hoped for is, in the term for which engagements are allowed to be made. At present the term is limited to three years; whilst the Indian, arriving with the full knowledge of the rate of wages he is to expect, as fixed by a Government officer, and of the time of service he has undertaken to give in return for his free passage down, would be quite willing to contract with one employer for the whole term, viz., five years, if the Government would allow him; and whilst it is an acknowledged right that the Indian immigrant should be protected in every way, it is but fair and just that those who have had the expense of bringing him to Mauritius, thereby enabling him to better his condition, as is proved to be the case, should have the full benefit of his service.

The first two years of his engagement are spent in teaching him the work of a sugar estate, and in allowing him to gain the physical power necessary to its performance, of which he is very deficient on his arrival; in fact, it would be extremely difficult to recognise in the acclimatized, sturdy, healthy, independent-looking fellow, the abject, frail being who arrived from India two years previously.

At the end of the third year it constantly occurs that Indians leave the employer, who has had all the trouble and expense of so improving their condition, exactly when they are fit to make him some return for his care and outlay, and they would be quite disposed to do so but for the evil influence exercised by sirdars, who make a trade of inducing men to change employers as often as they can.

For

For an explanation of this sirdar influence, I must refer you to the repeated representations which have been made from time to time by planters ever since the commencement of Indian immigration. It entails heavy outlays on the island, which the planter would willingly bear if it benefited the labourer who renders service in return; but it only serves to encourage a set of worthless, idle fellows, who are the cause of ceaseless annoyances.

To understand the urgency of obtaining this power of prolonged engagements, one must not only have been in Mauritius, but must have been intimately connected with estates there. All the anxiety, the losses and the accidents which occur by the loss of labourers whom the planter has brought up to be carters, firemen, engine-drivers, &c., can only be appreciated by one who has suffered them.

The Mauritius planter neither asks nor wishes for anything that would interfere with the interests or well-being of the Indian immigrant, with whom, as a body, he has such good reason to be satisfied, and would therefore be quite willing to give him an increased rate of wages for the two last years, if he should be allowed to make the contract for the whole five years. I could write much more upon this matter, but I should hope that what I have already said will convince you that the desired alteration is not only of great moment to the planter, but is at the same time in nowise prejudicial to the immigrant.

The second point to which I wish to direct your attention is, to the law passed in 1855, allowing planters to send up to India, through Government, for any number of coolies for their own account, independent of the number brought down by Government for the Colony generally. This was a very great boon to planters, as it seemed to offer them a positive means of obtaining with certainty a regular and adequate supply of labour; but unfortunately the Government agents in India did not give effect to the orders sent up under the Ordinance, which caused me, as well as all those who availed of it, loss and disappointment. I do not doubt, however, from what I learnt from Sir James Higginson, that arrangements will be made to give full effect to this ordinance in future, which cannot fail to be of great advantage to the planting interest, notwithstanding one of its provisions, viz., that the Indian immigrant on his arrival in Mauritius is not bound to ratify the contract with the planter, who has run all the risk, and been at the expense of his introduction.

I would suggest that a coolie sent down by the Government agent for account of a planter, be considered bound to such planter for the term of his industrial residence.

These are the two points upon which I wished to see you, and which I have now put but inadequately before you. Should you, however, deem them worthy of any further elucidation on my part, I shall be happy to wait upon you.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Alex. C. Macpherson*

Enclosure 2, in No. 9.

Encl. 2, in No. 9.

To the Right Honourable *Henry Labouchere, &c. &c. &c.*, Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

Sir,

Lane's Hotel, St. Alban's-place, 15 July 1857.

THE early departure of Mr. Stevenson for Mauritius, and the importance to all those concerned in it as a sugar colony of the changes which I ventured to suggest in my letter to you of the 15th ultimo, must plead my excuse for again bespeaking your early consideration of the subject.

Her Majesty's Government can have no wish to place obstacles in the way of Her colonists in their struggle with the slave and other foreign sugar producing countries, since, apart from their natural desire for their welfare as countrymen, their success would, I conceive, ultimately do more to induce other countries to adopt free labour, than any thing else, from the mere fact of its affording clear proof of its being more economical.

As they prove callous to the moral view of the question of slavery, there only remains for us to prove the material advantage of free labour.

Mauritius, from its proximity to an abundant supply of labourers anxious to go there, and from its capability of greatly increasing its production, at as low, if not lower cost than any other country, is in a better position to fight the battle of free labour versus slave labour than any other British Colony; and I feel sure that the Government will afford the planters every latitude to obtain that which is most essential to tropical agriculture, namely, an ample supply of continuous voluntary labour, consistent with the interests and welfare of the labourer.

I endeavoured to explain, in my letter referred to, the drawbacks under which we labour at present in this respect, from being only allowed to engage men for three years, and also the reasonableness of extending the period to five years, always of course provided the labourer consents voluntarily and freely.

I shall not trouble you again with these arguments; I am convinced that if, after due consideration, you deem the demand just and reasonable, you will lend your assistance in conferring what will be considered a boon in Mauritius; and I may add, that if Mr. Stevenson were made the bearer of the changes, his government would commence under the happiest auspices.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Alex. C. Macpherson.*

MAURITIUS.

Enclosure 3, in No. 9.

Encl. 3, in No. 9.

Sir,

Downing-street, 7 August 1857.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Labouchere to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th June and 15th ultimo, on the subject of the present state of coolie immigration into Mauritius.

I am now to state to you in reply,—

1st. That, as regards the extension of contracts to labour from three to five years, Mr. Labouchere having again given the subject his fullest consideration, is not prepared to sanction any alteration in the existing law; and,

2d. That, as regards the working of the Ordinance, No. 12, of 1855, which authorises the introduction of immigrants at the expense of the person applying for their services, I am to observe, that this Ordinance came into operation on the 1st September 1855; that on 7th February 1856 Governor Higginson reported, that “the requisitions for men as yet made under its provisions have been very limited,” and that he was therefore disposed to think that labour was more abundant in the Colony than was generally supposed. Since the receipt of that Despatch no further intelligence on the subject has been received; but, as far as regards the Home and Colonial Governments, there is nothing to prevent the planters taking advantage of the Ordinance if they think fit to do so, neither has intelligence of any opposition on the part of the Government of Bombay been received.

A. C. Macpherson, Esq.

I have, &c.
(signed) T. Fredk Elliot.

— No. 10. —

(No. 16.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable *H. Labouchere*, M. P.
to Governor *Stevenson*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 20 August 1857.

I TRANSMIT to you a copy of a letter received from the Foreign Department, inquiring as to the circumstances under which the English vessel “Joker” was furnished with papers to enable her to convey blacks as free labourers to Mauritius; and also a copy of a letter, dated 5th August 1857, from the Admiralty, with an extract of one from Commodore Trotter, in which the Commodore states that the English barque which he found in Boyana Bay, Madagascar, with a licence from the Governor of Mauritius to take over labourers to that island, was commanded by a native of France, but a naturalised Englishman, and that it appeared evident to the Commodore that he had virtually bought the labourers.

I need not say that Her Majesty’s Government have received this information with great surprise, and that they are anxious to receive a full and immediate explanation on the subject.

I have, &c.
(signed) H. Labouchere.

Enclosure 1, in No. 10.

Sir,

Foreign Office, 13 July 1857.

I AM directed by the Earl of Clarendon to transmit to you the accompanying extracts of a Despatch from Her Majesty’s Commissioners at the Cape of Good Hope upon the state of the slave trade on the East Coast of Africa during the year 1856, and I am to request that, in laying the same before Mr. Secretary Labouchere, you will move him to acquaint Lord Clarendon whether any information has been received at the Colonial Office with regard to the circumstances under which the English vessel “Joker” was furnished by the authorities at the Mauritius with papers to enable her to convey blacks as free labourers to that island.

I am at the same time to enclose an extract of a Despatch from Her Majesty’s Minister at Lisbon, stating that the Portuguese Government has received intelligence that Commodore Trotter had met with an English vessel off the coast of Mozambique with a cargo of negroes on board destined for the island of Réunion.

Herman Merivale, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

I am, &c.
(signed) Shelburn.

Sub-Enclosure 1, to Enclosure 1, in No. 10.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Mr. Howard to Lord Clarendon, dated Lisbon,
24 June 1857.

THE Viscount de Sã acquainted me yesterday that he had received intelligence from the Cape of Good Hope that Commodore Trotter had returned to Simon's Bay from his cruise to Mozambique; that he had met with an English vessel off that coast with a cargo of negroes on board, destined for Réunion; but that as she had a commission from the Governor of that island for their conveyance, he had not brought her for adjudication before the Mixed Commission at the Cape.

No. 11.

Sub-Enclosure 2, to Enclosure 1, in No. 10.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Her Majesty's Commissioners at the Cape of Good Hope,
dated Cape Town, 14 April 1857.

THE exportation of negroes as free labourers is also carried on from Madagascar for the French settlements; and while in Boyana Bay, Commodore Trotter met with an English vessel, the "Joker," Asp, master, freighted for the conveyance of blacks, as free labourers, to Mauritius, for which purpose she was furnished with papers from the authorities of that Colony. Fuller particulars of this case will, we doubt not, reach your Lordship through the Board of Admiralty; but we would remark, that were such a practice allowed in behalf of a British Colony, it may be questioned whether it would not tend to diminish the weight of any representations which Her Majesty's Government might think it desirable to make to other powers to whose colonies free labourers may be brought from ports at which the slave trade has hitherto been the principal traffic.

Enclosure 2, in No. 10.

Encl. 2, in No. 10.

Sir,

Admiralty, 5 August 1857.

IN reply to your letter of the 3d instant, enclosing copies of a Despatch from the Foreign Office relative to the state of slave trade on the East Coast of Africa, and requesting to be informed whether my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have received any reports respecting the English ship "Joker," alleged to have been freighted for the conveyance of negroes to the Mauritius from Madagascar as free labourers, I am commanded by their Lordships to transmit you herewith, for the information of Mr. Secretary Labouchere, an extract from a letter of Commodore Trotter, dated the 5th April last, No. 3, respecting a vessel supposed to be the "Joker."

Sub-Enclosure.

Extracts from the above-mentioned letter of Commodore Trotter were sent to the Foreign Office on the 16th July.

T. Frederick Elliot, Esq., &c. &c. &c.
Colonial Office.

I am, &c.
(signed) B. Osborne.

Sub-Enclosure to Enclosure 2, in No. 10.

EXTRACT from Commodore Trotter's Letter, dated 5 April 1857, at Simon's Bay.

"ON our passage to Mozambique we touched at Boyana Bay (Madagascar), where the Queen of Bali was very civil. It was her father with whom Commander Brown, of the 'Geyser,' in 1848, made a treaty for the suppression of the slave trade. The Queen appeared to have a perfect remembrance of it, and said she should always act up to it. I found lying here an English barque, belonging to Seychelles, and commanded by a native of France, but a naturalized Englishman, who had a licence from the Governor of Mauritius to take over labourers to that island. It appeared evident to me that he had virtually bought them; but as it would be as easy for the authorities at the Mauritius as for me to prove that, I merely made a note of my visit in her log-book, and in it protested against his proceedings, and against his procuring any other labourers in a similar way; and I wrote at the same time to the Governor of the Mauritius to say what I had done. The Queen presented me with a fine bullock, for which I returned her the articles enumerated in the margin.

"Colonel Hamerton had given me the information, which he believed to be true, of two vessels having left this bay the year before with slaves, which they had succeeded in getting safely round the Cape of Good Hope; but two Jesuit priests, one of whom had resided there constantly for the last two years and a half, assured me that no such vessel had during that time taken in slaves, or sailed from that place with them. I was anxious to ascertain the correctness of the report, because, after very particular inquiries on the subject, I had reason to believe, as I still have, that no slaver has been fitted out on the East Coast, or taken away slaves round the Cape of Good Hope, for the last three year and more."

24 yds. duck.

MAURITIUS.

— No. 11. —

Encl. in No. 12.

(No. 24.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable *H. Labouchere*, M. P.
to Governor *Stevenson*.

No. 11.
Right Hon. H.
Labouchere, M.P.
to Gov. Stevenson.
6 September 1857.
• Page 181.

Sir,

Downing-street, 6 September 1857.

I HAVE received with satisfaction your predecessor's Despatch, No. 119,* of
3d July last, reporting that the prohibition of immigration from India to Mau-
ritius had been withdrawn by the Indian Government.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. Labouchere*.

— No. 12. —

(No. 53.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable *H. Labouchere*, M. P.
to Governor *Stevenson*.

No. 12.
Right Hon. H.
Labouchere, M.P.
to Gov. Stevenson.
17 October 1857.

Sir,

Downing-street, 17 October 1857.

I HAVE to convey to you the Queen's confirmation and allowance of th-
Ordinance passed by the Legislature of Mauritius, and forwarded in your pre-
decessor's Despatch, No. 152, of the 12th of August, "to amend the law
relative to the engaging of newly-arrived immigrants."

I transmit for your information the copy of a Report upon this Ordinance,
which has been furnished by Sir Frederic Rogers, and I have to instruct you
to comply with his request that a copy of the Report of the Protector of Immi-
grants should be sent home.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. Labouchere*.

10 October 1857.
Enclosure.

Encl. in No. 12.

Enclosure in No. 12.

Sir,

Emigration Office, 10 October 1857.

IN obedience to the directions of the Secretary of State contained in your letter of the
30th ultimo, I have perused and considered an Ordinance passed by the Legislature of
Mauritius in the month of July last, intituled, "No. 22. An Ordinance to amend the law
relative to the engaging of newly-arrived Immigrants."

2. By the Ordinance, No. 15 of 1854, it was provided that from the immigrants brought
to the Colony at the expense of Government, every employer should be entitled to receive
a certain number fixed by authority with reference to the nature and extent of his property
and the amount of the immigration.

3. But as the planters are generally anxious to obtain more than their authorised number,
it was also provided by the 6th and 7th clauses of the same Ordinance, that any employer
might obtain more than his quota by paying an additional sum of 3*l.* a head on the
excess.

4. The Ordinance, No. 12 of 1855, in order to encourage private persons to import
immigrants at their own expense (though through the agency of Government), provided that
any planter might despatch through the immigration agent at Mauritius to the emigration
agent at Calcutta, a requisition for extra immigrants to be introduced at the expense of the
requisitionist; which immigrants would accordingly (subject to certain conditions) be allotted
to him on their arrival.

5. It appears by the report of the Immigration Committee of the Chamber of Agriculture,
that the latter Ordinance has become a dead letter; obviously because the terms on which
it enables planters to get an extra number of immigrants are less advantageous to him than
those held out by the Ordinance of 1854; and the immigration agent (in a report which is
not sent home) states that the effect of this latter Ordinance is to aggravate the evils
notoriously arising from the keenness with which planters compete for the services of
immigrants.

6. The Legislative Council accordingly has passed an Ordinance repealing the 6th and
7th Clauses of the Ordinance, No. 15 of 1854, and making provisions analogous to those of
No. 12 of 1855, which, however, it leaves in force.

7. The Ordinance provides that any person who chooses to pay to Government the cost
of introducing any newly-arrived immigrant, and of a proportionate number of females, may
have these people allotted to him out of the Government immigration, over and above his
quota, and that if the immigrants leave him at the end of their three years' engagement, he
will be entitled to receive any tax paid to the public on account of those immigrants during
the two last years of their industrial residence, amounting to not less than 30*s.* or more
than 60*s.*

8. The

8. The Committee of the Chamber of Agriculture object to this arrangement, principally, as I understand, because, assuming five years' labour to be a fair equivalent for the cost of introduction, they consider that a planter to whom an immigrant is only allotted for three years certain, should not be called upon to pay for more than three-fifths of that cost.

9. They would prefer, however, that this difficulty should be met by authorising engagements for the full term of the industrial residence.

10. In default of this they propose, that if the labourer changes his employer at the end of three years' service, the second employer should pay to the first two-fifths (with interest) of the cost of introduction.

11. To this the Governor has not acceded, because it virtually interferes with the rights secured to the labourer under the present law.

12. It appears further, that the immigration agent proposed that the system of private recruiting should be stopped. The Chamber of Agriculture admit the evils which result from the recruiting system, but the Governor concurs with them in thinking such a stoppage unadvisable.

13. It also appears that the money obtained from individual planters on account of labourers introduced as part of the Government quota, but allotted as extra men, is not applied with sufficient promptitude in bringing out fresh Government immigrants; a provision to remedy this is inserted in the Ordinance.

14. It will be observed that this Ordinance does not in any degree affect the rights of the coolies, but only the mode of dividing the expense of immigration between the individual employers and the public purse.

15. Considered in this point of view, it seems to me that there is some force in the argument of the Chamber of Agriculture. I can indeed have no doubt that in the course of a three years' indenture the planter is amply repaid for the 6 l. or 8 l. which that indenture will cost him, even independently of the sum which he may possibly recover from Government. But since the Indian is bound, in return for his free passage, to give the public five years' labour, of which the individual to whom he is first allotted is only to receive three, there is a certain inequality in requiring the first employer to advance the whole cost of importation.

16. The matter, however, is one on which it appears to me far best to accept the decision of the Local Legislature, unless the Home Government is expressly called upon to interfere; which is not the case. And even if the measure is capable of improvement, it would be best to leave those improvements to be suggested by experience, and to originate with the colonists or the Local Government.

17. I would, therefore, recommend that the Ordinance should be simply confirmed without adverting to the slight difference of opinion which exists between the Governor and the Chamber of Agriculture.

18. It might, however, be desirable to request the Governor to send home a copy of the Protector's Report which has led to the passing of this Ordinance. An exact understanding of the mode in which the recruiting system is worked at Mauritius would be very useful with reference to the West Indian immigration. It appears that difficulties are felt at Mauritius respecting the allocation of immigrants which do not exist in the West Indies, and which seem, in some degree, connected with the employment of recruiters on behalf of private persons.

Herman Merivale, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Frederic Rogers.*

— No. 13. —

(No. 58.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable *H. Labouchere*, M. P.
to Governor *Stevenson*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 22 October 1857.

I HAVE received your predecessor's Despatch, No. 140, of the 2d August, together with its enclosures, reporting the visit of Commodore Trotter to Madagascar, his boarding the English barque "Joker" in Boyanna Bay, and his opinion that the emigrant labourers whom he found on board of her had been slaves up to the moment of their embarkation.

I have already addressed you on this subject in my Despatch, No. 37, of the 5th instant. I was not then in receipt of the Despatch now before me, which explains what I did not then understand, how the captain of the "Joker" could be importing immigrants from Madagascar to Mauritius so lately as the month of May last under a license from the Mauritius Government; whereas Mr. Higginson had stated in his Despatch, No. 175, of the 14th October 1856, that he should issue no more licenses.

It now appears that the license granted to Captain Aps was issued so far back as the 20th August 1856. He is therefore, so far, not chargeable with any infraction of the law. It appears, however, from Commodore Trotter's statement

o.13.

No. 13.
Right Hon. H.
Labouchere, M.P.
to Gov. Stevenson.
22 October 1857.

MAURITIUS.

statement that Captain Aps has rendered himself liable to a heavy penalty under the Slave Trade Acts; and I am glad to find, therefore, that the Colonial Government was prepared to proceed against him in the event of his returning to Mauritius; and I assure myself that you will omit no means by which he may be brought to justice.

I have communicated Mr. Higginson's Despatch to the Foreign Office and to the Admiralty.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. Labouchere.*

— No. 14. —

No. 14.
Right Hon. H.
Labouchere, M.P.
to Gov. Stevenson.
26 Nov. 1857.

(No. 80.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable *H. Labouchere, M. P.*
to Governor *Stevenson.*

Sir,

Downing-street, 26 November 1857.

• Page 192.
No. 23 of 1857.

I HAVE received your predecessor's Despatch, No. 177,* of the 9th of September, forwarding an Ordinance "to amend the law as to the introduction and engagement of immigrants from territories not under the Government of the East India Company." †

† Vide Appendix,
page 336.

5 November 1857.
Enclosure.

I transmit to you the copy of a Report upon this Ordinance which has been furnished by the Emigration Commissioners. You will be pleased to regard as an Instruction from myself the remark in the 12th paragraph as to the necessity of submitting to the Secretary of State the regulations under which this immigration is to be carried on.

With regard to the proportion of females to be required at the commencement of the immigration, I can only sanction the very insufficient proportion suggested, viz. one female to every six men, on the condition that it shall be augmented so soon as the numbers introduced shall show that the first difficulties of opening a stream of emigration have been surmounted; and it must be regarded as permissible only in respect of the first 1,000 immigrants from any one region, the proportion required for coolies being requisite in respect of any further numbers.

The 11th section of the Ordinance fixes, by the intervention of a Government Board, not only the maximum passage money to be paid under the 10th section in cases where the person engaging the immigrants is not the person introducing them, but generally the payment to be made by the importers of the immigrants to the shipowners. This appears to be an objectionable interference between the parties; and I have to instruct you to suggest to the Council the expediency of amending the Ordinance in the above particular.

Subject to the preceding remarks, I have no objection to the Ordinance; and I have to signify to you its confirmation and allowance by Her Majesty.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. Labouchere.*

Encl. in No. 14.

Enclosure in No. 14.

Sir,

Emigration Office, 5 November 1857.

No. 23.

WE have to acknowledge your letter of the 30th ultimo, enclosing a Despatch from the Governor of Mauritius, and the copy of an Ordinance enacted by the Legislature of that Colony, intituled, "No. 23 of 1857. An Ordinance to amend the Law as to the introduction of Immigrants from Territories not under the Government of the East India Company."

2. In his Despatches of the 6th April and the 19th of June last, Mr. Labouchere instructed Sir James Higginson that the importation of Africans and coolies from Aden must be entirely discontinued, and he directed Sir James Higginson to take "steps for effecting any alteration of the law which might be requisite in order fully to empower him to repress, by the most vigorous measures, every form of immigration which was contrary to the national policy and to the conditions under which alone the introduction of immigrants of the coloured races had been sanctioned."

3. In order to give effect to these directions the present Ordinance (which is passed with a suspending clause) repeals all existing Proclamations and Ordinances in respect to immigration from territories not belonging to the East India Company, and enacts fresh provisions.

4. First, in order to secure to the Government the power of controlling any such emigration, and punishing misconduct, it is provided that no immigrants shall be introduced except in vessels licensed either by the Government or by some consular agent authorised by

by the Governor to issue licenses. The license is to be limited to particular places, and to be good for one voyage only. If immigrants are introduced without license, or if the conditions of the license are broken, the "master, owner, and agent" of the ship are to be subject to penalties not exceeding 100 *l.* fine and six months' imprisonment for each immigrant on board (section 3). The Governor may also order the immigrants to be taken back to their country, and if allowed to land they may not be indentured for more than one year.

5. The Governor, with his Executive Council, is to frame regulations for carrying out the Ordinance, which are to have the same effect as if embodied in the Ordinance or in the ship's license.

6. The Protector of Immigrants is to board and inspect every immigrant vessel on its arrival, and either certify that the conditions of the license have been performed, or report to the Governor.

7. The specific provisions for the protection of the immigrants and reimbursement of their importers are the following.

8. The immigrant, on landing, is to be at once placed in charge of the Protector, and is not to leave the *dépôt* till hired (Articles 8, 9), or till he has been in the *dépôt* for 14 days. Before that period he may be indentured for three years, the person hiring him paying to the importer the cost of his importation (which charge is to be controlled by a Board containing a majority of Government officers), with an addition of 25 per cent. if he shall have been introduced under an arrangement to serve some other planter. After the expiration of 14 days he may be indentured for one year. In this case, as we understand the Ordinance, his employer need not have actually made the required payment to the importer (Article 9), but will remain liable to it (Article 13) if the engagement is a written one.

9. We do not exactly understand how these provisions will work; but they seem calculated to place the immigrant (acting under the advice of the Protector) in a position of much advantage.

10. Penalties are imposed on persons feeding or treating the immigrants improperly when on shipboard, or confining them when on shore; the laws defining the relations between coolies and their employers are extended to labourers introduced under this Ordinance, and provision is made for proof of marriages.

11. This Ordinance appears to place the control of emigration in the hands of the Executive, and may, we apprehend, be properly sanctioned. As it is passed with a suspending clause, an express sanction will be required in order to bring it into operation.

12. The regulations under which immigration is to be carried on must of course be submitted to the Secretary of State, nor must immigration be authorised from any place not previously approved by him. On these heads, practical questions of considerable importance may arise; the only point, however, on which any present decision is required, concerns the proportion of females; and we should concur with Governor Higginson, in thinking that in the infancy of an immigration it would not be necessary, or indeed reasonable, to require more than one female to every six men; if that proportion can be attained at first (which we imagine it rarely can), there will probably be little difficulty in raising it afterwards.

C. Fortescue, Esq., M. P.
&c. &c. &c.

We have, &c
(signed) T. W. C. Murdoch.
Frederic Rogers.

— No. 15. —

(No. 105.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable *H. Labouchere*, M. P.
to Governor *Stevenson*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 19 January 1858.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your predecessor's Despatch of the 9th September last, No. 179,* transmitting an Ordinance passed by the Governor and Council of Mauritius, entitled, "An Ordinance for preventing the Illegal Introduction of Indian Immigrants."

I have to convey to you Her Majesty's gracious confirmation and allowance of this Ordinance.

I transmit to you for your information a copy of a letter from the secretary to the Court of East India Directors to the India Board on the subject.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. Labouchere*.

Enclosure in No. 15.

No. 15.
Right Hon. *H. Labouchere*, M. P.
to Gov. *Stevenson*.
19 June 1858.

* Page 193.
No. 26 of 1857.

31 Dec. 1857.
Enclosure.

Sir,

East India House, 31 December 1857.

1. I HAVE laid before the Court of Directors Sir George Clerk's letter, dated 25th ult., forwarding correspondence received from the Colonial Office, together with an Ordinance proposed by the Legislature of Mauritius, to prevent the illegal introduction of coolies from India into the colony, and requesting the opinion of the Court on the Ordinance in question.

O. 13.

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2. In

MAURITIUS.

2. In reply, I am commanded to state, for the information of the Board of Commissioners, that the above enactment seems to the Court, as at present informed, sufficiently to meet the requirements of the case; and that they are not aware of any reason why the Ordinance should not be submitted for the confirmation of Her Majesty.

3. The Court observe with much gratification, that before the receipt of the letter of Mr. Secretary Labouchere, communicating the representations of the Court arising out of the cases of the ships "St Germain" and "Glanceur," it had been the intention of the Government of the Mauritius to propose to the Colonial Legislature a measure for preventing the immigration of Indian labourers in any other way than through the agency established under the authority of the Indian Legislature.

The Secretary India Board.

I have, &c.
(signed) *James C. Melvill.*

Sub-Enclosure.

Sir,

India Board, 8 January 1858.

A COPY of your letter of the 21st November last, with the Ordinance proposed by the Legislature of Mauritius to prevent the illegal introduction of coolies into that Colony, having been forwarded by the Commissioners for the Affairs of India for the opinion of the Court of Directors, I have now the honour to enclose to you a copy of the letter which they have received from Sir James Melvill, containing the sentiments of the Court upon the subject.

H. Merivale, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

I am, &c.
(signed) *George Clerk.*

— No. 16. —

No. 16.

(No. 110.)

Right Hon. H.
Labouchere, M.P.
to Governor
Stevenson.
27 January 1858.
* Page 278.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable *H. Labouchere, M.P.*
to Governor *Stevenson.*

Sir,

Downing-street, 27 January 1858.

WITH reference to my Despatch of the 7th August last, No. 3,* I transmit to you for your information copy of a further correspondence with Mr. Macpherson on the subject of immigration into Mauritius.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. Labouchere.*

Enclosure 1, in No. 16.

To the Right Honourable *Henry Labouchere*, Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Sir,

London, 16 January 1858.

I HAD the honour of addressing you on the 15th June and 15th July last to request, on behalf of the Mauritius planters, that you be pleased to sanction certain changes in the laws respecting contracts with coolie and other labourers in that Colony.

I beg leave to send you herewith copy of a letter from the Chamber of Agriculture there, expressive of its entire concurrence in my representations to you upon the subject, and requesting me to seek an opportunity of again bringing before you the urgency with which these changes are hoped for by all those interested in agriculture in the island.

We seek for no compulsory engagement; the Protector of Immigrants and the magistrates are on the spot, they take cognizance of all the details of the contracts, and are always ready to protect the immigrants in their free choice of employers.

All we ask is, that the planters and labourers should be allowed to form a mutual engagement for five years, a measure that would afford the planters an opportunity of obtaining that regular and continuous labour so essential to tropical agriculture, whilst it would tend more than anything else (by freeing them from the baneful influence of those Indian crimps who make their livelihood by deceit and lies) to lead the Indian into more settled and industrious habits, and to promote those feelings of mutual interest between employers and employed which never fail to be of material benefit to both.

The addresses to both the late and present Governor show the importance which planters attach to this measure, and I do hope you will give it a full and fair investigation, which the presence here of Sir James Higginson, our late Governor, and of General Hay, our late Acting Governor, will enable you to do in a most satisfactory manner.

I may add that if we are allowed to bring a sufficient number of labourers to the island, with the power of securing their services for five years, large tracts of land now laying waste would be brought into cultivation, and within a given time the production of the island might be doubled.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Alex. C. Macpherson.*

Lane's Hotel, St. Alban's-place, S.W.

31 Dec. 1857.

16 January 1858.
Enclosure 1.
27 January 1858.
Enclosure 2.

Encl. 1, in No. 16.

Sub-Enclosure.

Sub-Enclosure.

A Monsieur *Alex. Macpherson*.Port Louis, Chambre d'Agriculture,
12 Octobre 1857.

Monsieur et cher Collegue,
J'AI eu le plaisir de soumettre à la Chambre d'Agriculture à sa séance du 17 Sept. dernier la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire le 4 Juillet.

La Chambre partage entièrement votre opinion relativement à la nécessité de prolonger à cinq années les contrats de service de travailleurs à Maurice, et de rendre valables les engagements contractés dans l'Inde, et vous félicite d'avoir présenté ces questions au très Honorable Secrétaire d'Etat sous un jour si vrai et si frappant.

Un vote unanime de remerciemens à été passé par la Chambre après la lecture de votre lettre et du mémoire que vous avez adressé au Ministre des Colonies, et j'ai été chargé de vous transmettre en même temps que l'expression de la reconnaissance de mes confrères, les vœux qu'ils font pour qu'il vous soit possible de continuer vos bons offices à la Chambre et à la Colonie pendant votre séjour en Europe.

C'est une tâche qu'il m'est doux de remplir, et je vous prie, mon cher collègue, de croire à la sincérité des sentimens de votre bien dévoué.

(signed) *J. Currie*,
President de la Chambre d'Agriculture.

Enclosure 2, in No. 16.

Encl. 2, in No. 16.

Sir,

Downing-street 27 January 1858.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Labouchere to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th instant, and to acquaint you, in reply, that any representation which the Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture may be desirous of making to Her Majesty's Government on the subject of immigration into that island should, in accordance with the colonial regulations, be made through the Governor.

Alex. C. Macpherson, Esq.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. Merivale*.

— No. 17. —

(No. 74.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable the Lord *Stanley*, M.P.
to Governor *Stevenson*.

No. 17.
Right Hon. Lord
Stanley, M.P.
to Governor
Stevenson.
4 June 1858.

Sir,

Downing-street, 4 June 1858.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have come to the conclusion that it will be advisable that the services of the existing agents for collecting emigrants at Calcutta and Madras should hereafter be confined to the Mauritius, and that the West Indian Colonies should have a distinct agency of their own.

Until such officers can be obtained and reach the scene of their duties the present agents will continue to act for the West Indian Colonies by which they are now employed, and their salaries on account of those Colonies will be payable until they are relieved.

The adoption of the present decision will put an end to the idea of keeping up a division of seasons between the Mauritius and the West Indies.

India will be open throughout the year to the agents of all the Colonies concerned to do their best for the advancement of the service on which they are employed, with the exception only, so far as regards the West Indies, of a period during which sanitary considerations render it unfit that coolies should be despatched so as to pass the Cape of Good Hope in the cold weather.

I have every reason to hope from what I see on record that the present measure will be acceptable to the colony of Mauritius, whilst the separation of the agencies has also been frequently requested by different Governments in the West Indies.

I have &c.
(signed) *Stanley*.

MAURITIUS.

— No. 18. —

No. 18.

(No. 47.)

Right Hon. Sir
E. B. Lytton, Bart.,
M. P., to Governor
Stevenson.

26 July 1858.

* Page 207.

17 May 1858.
Enclosure 1.

19 June 1858.
Enclosure 2.

16 July 1858.
Enclosure 3.

Encl. 1, in No. 18.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable Sir *E. B. Lytton*, Bart., M.P.
to Governor *Stevenson*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 26 July 1858.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 30th January last, No. 22,* having reference to the immigration of coolies from India, under the Mauritius Ordinance, No. 22, of 1857, and more especially to the question of giving validity to contracts made in India previous to embarkation.

I transmit to you, for your information and guidance, copies of the correspondence noted in the margin. These letters will put you in full possession of the views of Her Majesty's Government on the several measures you have suggested.

I have, &c.

(signed) *E. B. Lytton*.

Enclosure 1, in No. 18.

Sir,

Emigration Office, 17 May 1858.

WE have to acknowledge your letter of the 21st ultimo, enclosing a Despatch from the Governor of Mauritius, respecting emigration from India into that island.

2. In his Despatch, No. 53, of 17th of October, Mr. Labouchere requested the Governor to send to England a report from the Protector of Immigrants, respecting the system of employing recruiters, and its consequences, on which the Ordinance No. 22 of 1857 had been founded, but which had not been forwarded with that Ordinance. The report is now forwarded, and the Governor takes the opportunity of stating his intention to consolidate the Immigration Law, and of submitting to the Secretary of State the propriety of certain alterations in it.

3. The consolidation of the law is certainly very much to be desired. It consists at present of a large number of Ordinances, mostly very short, which have been passed during the last six years, to modify, repeal, and re-enact each other, and must form a most troublesome code to administer.

4. The proposed alterations appear to be suggested in their main features by the Chambers of Agriculture and Commerce, in order to remove certain practical difficulties which are experienced by the planters and the Protector of Immigrants in the conduct of the immigration. They concern, first, the mode of distributing the immigrants; secondly, the period for which they are to be indentured in the Colony.

5. The rules of allotting immigrants are laid down in the Ordinances No. 15 of 1854, No. 12 of 1855, and No. 22 of 1857.

6. No. 15 provided that the immigration of each year should be divided among the planters in proportion to the produce of their estates, but subject to the condition (contained in the 6th and 7th clauses of the Ordinance) that those who desired an extra share of the Government immigration might obtain it by paying 3*l*. additional for each extra immigrant allotted to them.

7. No. 12 of 1855 provided, that extra labourers might also be procured by paying the full cost of introduction. These labourers were supposed to be introduced not as part of, but in addition to, the Government quota.

8. No. 22 of 1857 repealed the 6th and 7th clauses of No. 15, and so left the introduction of extra immigrants to be effected under No. 12 of 1855 only.

9. It appears, however, that this system does not work entirely well. The fertility of Mauritius leading, first, to an extended cultivation, then to an increased necessity for hands to support that cultivation, and so to a keen competition for labour among the planters, who are pressing forward to avail themselves to the utmost of the natural advantages of their property, makes it worth while for sugar planters not only to pay the cost of introducing immigrants, but also to send out native recruiters to collect emigrants in India each for his own employer. And these recruiters find it worth while, instead of engaging themselves honestly in the work of collection, to seduce (as it is fairly called) into their employer's service immigrants who have been collected by the Government, or by other men's recruiters. The present law requires every immigrant to land in Mauritius at liberty to choose his own employer. While, therefore, the coolies are on board the emigrant ship, or in dépôt at Calcutta or Mauritius, they are open to the influence of the rival Sirdars (as they are called), who struggle for the power of directing their choice of an employer, and, when they have obtained this, use it of course (not without much unseemly quarrelling) for the purpose of making their own profit both out of the planter and out of the coolie.

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10. The effect is said to be that men of substance send out *bonâ fide* recruiters, in order to secure to themselves a supply of labour adequate to carry out the operations they have commenced; but that this supply is intercepted by the agents of more needy and less fair-dealing persons, who are only bound by the present law to pay the real importer the expenses he has incurred in the collection of his people, with an addition of 25 per cent., a wholly inadequate compensation for the disappointment of his expectations.

11. To obviate these difficulties (besides endeavouring to increase the rate of immigration), Governor Stevenson proposes that Indians shall be allowed, under proper precautions, to make binding contracts in India, either with a particular person, or with the Government, and that on their arrival in the Colony they shall be bound, as a matter of course, in the first case to the person they have contracted to serve; in the second, to the person to whom the Government shall allot them.

12. The former of these principles, that of private contract, has been admitted in the case of the proposed emigration from Bombay to the West Indies. The latter, that of Government allotment, is that on which, practically, the West Indian emigration has been hitherto carried on. We imagine, therefore, there can be no objection to admit either with regard to Mauritius. The conditions by which Mr. Stevenson proposes to secure that they shall not be applied to the substantial disadvantage of the immigrants are contained in the 42d and following paragraphs of his Despatch, and are in substance as follows:—

(1.) All applications for extra immigrants to be made to the Protector in Mauritius, or the emigration agent in India, specifying the number of people required, and the wages and other advantages which the labourers are to receive. The Protector to send to the emigration agent a periodical report of the minimum and maximum amount of wages and rations given in different localities, and for different kinds of work.

(2.) All emigrants to pass through the immigration dépôt. The Government agent so to exercise a certain restraint over the operations of the private agents employed in the selection or engagement of labourers, and to secure that these latter are fully informed of all that they ought to know. The contract to be always made before the emigration agent or “magisterial authority sanctioned by Government.”

(3.) A copy to be given to the immigrant of the contract; which is to be indefeasible, except of course by consent of the employer or in consequence of his misconduct, and then only through a stipendiary magistrate. Persons persuading the coolies (even on ship-board) to escape from their engagement, to be punishable.

(4.) The association of Indians under a sirdar of their own village (who is distinguishable from the crimp who bears the same title), to be encouraged; and any such association to be allotted, as far as possible, to the same employer.

(5.) Immigrants under special engagement to be sent “if practicable” in separate ships, or in ships provided by their employers.

(6.) Immigrants to choose in the dépôt at Calcutta between special and general engagements. If they choose the latter, to be allotted at the discretion of the Mauritius Government, with a reasonable allowance for their own preference of an employer. A sirdar to be punished for asking, and an employer for giving to him, “anything beyond the fair stipulated wages or improved rations allowed to be paid to the sirdar for his special services.”

13. These regulations appear to us to be in the main well-considered and sufficient. A few remarks, however, occur to us on matters not affecting their principles.

(1.) We do not see why applications should be allowed to the emigration agent in India. It appears to us much safer and better that they should be all given in to the protector, and by him forwarded to the emigration agent, with such information and instructions as his knowledge of the applicants and circumstances of the Colony would enable him to give.

(2.) The second rule is most necessary. But it appears to us it must be carried farther. The Indian Government will not allow the employment of private collecting agents. Every such agent, though acting in fact for an individual, should not only be subjected to “a certain restraint” on the part of the Emigration Agent, but should be distinctly a subordinate to that officer, and should act only in virtue of a licence from him, revocable in case of misconduct. The contract should be made before the emigration agent, or officer acting in that capacity, and perhaps should be made at once on the emigrant’s arrival in the Calcutta or Madras dépôts, otherwise the effect of the change may merely be to transfer the bidding for labour from the Mauritius dépôt to the establishments in India.

(3.) Copies of the contracts of immigrants with private persons will, of course, be sent to the Protector of Immigrants at Mauritius, in the ship which carries the contracting labourer. Such contracts should always be made in a form prescribed by law, on pain of being annulled by the Protector.

(4.) We do not see that the Mauritius Legislature could affix a criminal character to acts committed at sea. This has been more than once decided by the law officer of the Crown.

(5.) Our own experience would lead us to apprehend that the endeavour to send different classes of emigrants in different ships, and still more the allowing individuals to supply

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ships for certain of the emigrants passing through the Government dépôt, might embarrass the Emigration Agent, who is generally chargeable with the duty of apportioning the supply of ships to the supply of emigrants. We would strongly recommend that neither of these rules should be adopted, unless the Government Agents are of opinion that they can be carried into effect without inconvenience.

(6.) In carrying out this regulation, we are inclined to think it would be advisable that every immigrant should, in the presence of the emigration agent in India, sign his name or mark either to a distinct contract binding him specially to serve a particular person, or to a contract binding him generally to serve such employer as may be chosen for him by the Government. This will secure that he understands clearly the terms on which he emigrates—a point of peculiar importance where a change of system is contemplated.

14. We should doubt the policy of punishing sirdars or their employers for giving or receiving high wages. Such legislation is, we imagine, generally both oppressive and nugatory. The object should be not to punish, but to remove the opportunity for transactions of this kind, and this the proposed changes seem calculated to effect. If this plan is ineffective, we should apprehend that penal enactments would be still more so.

15. Subject to these observations, we see no reason against the adoption of Mr. Stevenson's plan with regard to the allotment of coolies.

16. With regard to the period of service, he proposes that the coolie should be at liberty, if he chooses, to contract an engagement for five years, determinable at the expiration of the third or fourth year, on payment of a certain proportion of the expenses.

17. This, as Lord Stanley is aware, is very nearly the system which prevails in the West Indies, where the immigrant, during his five years of industrial residence, is only allowed to quit the master to whom he is originally allotted, on condition either of paying a certain sum or transferring himself to another employer; and in the latter case the second employer may be required to contribute towards the cost of introduction, in the same proportion as the first employer has been required to contribute. When the cost of introduction has been in the first instance defrayed by the first employer, the result of this principle would be to require (whether through the evidence of a Government officer or otherwise) a payment from the second employer to the first.

18. Generally speaking, there can of course be no objection to the adoption of these principles in Mauritius.

19. But two circumstances should be observed as peculiar to the latter Colony. First, the cost of introduction is very small; the freights from Calcutta averaged, as far as we can ascertain—

								£.	s.	d.	
In 1854	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	3	2	per adult.
In 1855	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	14	9	"
In 1856	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	11	5	"

Probably the whole average expense for the three years, including the cost of collection, was not more than 6*l.* per adult. In the West Indies the cost is more than 14*l.*, and the employer in British Guiana is required to pay 10*l.* Secondly, we observe that the rate at which new immigrants are indentured for their first three years is considerably less than the average rate of wages. In the West Indies, on the contrary, the immigrant receives the current rate of wages from the moment of his arrival.

20. If the agreement between the importer and the labourer be considered as in substance resting on the principle that the immigrant is entitled to the current wages, while the importer is entitled to deduct from those wages the cost of introduction (and certainly no view would be admissible which was more unfavourable to the immigrant), the above circumstances should be borne in mind in reduction of the employers' claim.

21. With regard to the low rate of wages, indeed, it may be said that the immigrant is at first comparatively unserviceable; and with regard to the cost of importation, that in this cost should be reckoned the expense of introducing women, children, and other persons who, from sickness, deaths, or otherwise, become useless before they have worked out their passage. But with every fair allowance on these accounts, the payment which may justly be considered as due from the immigrant after he has completed his three years' indenture cannot be very large.

22. Perhaps the rate of redemption already sanctioned, 1*l.* 12*s.* per annum (Ordinance 21 of 1854, s. 1), would not be in itself unreasonable. But we would strongly urge the expediency of a simple arrangement, and one which, after three years of indentured service, would place the immigrant, introduced under private contract, on the same footing which the Government emigrant is to occupy at the expiration of that period.

23. We are aware of no objection to Mr. Stevenson's proposal, that immigrants should be introduced under contract to work for Government or for persons engaged in any mechanical art; subject to the obvious qualification, that the occupation be one for which the coolies are by habit fitted, and to which they do not object.

Herman Merivale, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

We have, &c.
(signed) T. W. C. Murdoch.
Frederic Rogers.

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Enclosure 2, in No. 18.

Sir,

Downing-street, 19 June 1858.

Encl. 2, in No. 18.

I AM directed by Secretary Sir E. Bulwer Lytton to transmit to you, for the consideration of the Commissioners of the Affairs of India, and for that of the Court of East India Directors, a copy of a Despatch from the Governor of Mauritius, having reference to the introduction of coolie immigrants from India, under the provisions of Ordinance No. 22 of 1857. I am also to enclose a copy of a letter from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, to whom that Despatch was referred, for any observation they might have to offer upon it.

Sir E. Bulwer Lytton is of opinion that all requisitions for immigrants ought to be transmitted through the Mauritius Government to the Government Agent in India, and that all recruiting for the coolies in India ought to be done by the Government Agent and by his subordinates, who should not in any manner be employed or rewarded by any private persons for their services.

With respect to the duration of the contracts which it is proposed should be valid in Mauritius, though made in India previous to the embarkation of the immigrants, Sir E. Bulwer Lytton is of opinion that such contracts should not, under any circumstances, be sanctioned for a longer term than three years, the immigrant however being required to hire himself to labour, under annual contract, for each of the two following years, or to pay instead a sum of 1*l.* 12*s.* for each of those years.

Subject to these remarks and to the suggestions of the Emigration Commissioners on certain matters of detail, Sir E. B. Lytton sees no reason for not sanctioning the measures proposed by Governor Stevenson.

Sir George Clerk, K. C. B.
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) H. Merivale.

No. 22, 30 January
1858.
Vide page 207.
17 May 1858.
Vide page 288.

Enclosure 3, in No. 18.

Encl. 3, in No. 18.

Sir,

India Board, 16 July 1858.

WITH reference to your letter of the 19th ultimo, respecting the consolidation and alteration of the laws relating to emigration from India to Mauritius, I am directed by the Commissioners for the Affairs of India to enclose to you a copy of a letter from Mr. Dickinson, and also a copy of the Despatch to the Government of India, conveying the sentiments of the Court of Directors of the East India Company in regard to the proposed measures.

H. Merivale Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

I am, &c.
(signed) George Clerk.

14 July 1858.
Sub-Enclosure 1.
Sub-Enclosure 2.
July 1858.

Sub-Enclosure 1.

Sir,

East India House, 14 July 1858.

I HAVE laid before the Court of Directors Sir George Clerk's letter, dated 26th ultimo, forwarding a copy of a letter from the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, with its
• Enclosures, relating to the consolidation and alteration of the laws relating to emigration from India to Mauritius, and requesting the opinion of the Court on the proposed measures.

2. On the general question of the consolidation of the laws relating to emigration to Mauritius, it is not necessary for the Court at present to make any remarks.

3. The alterations proposed by the Government in the existing regulations are suggested principally with the object of removing the evils which are represented to arise from the law at present in force, prescribing that no engagement entered into by the immigrants out of the Colony shall be binding, but that the labourers on their arrival in the Colony shall be free to take service with whomsoever they may choose. It is proposed, in supersession of this rule, that private individuals in the Colony shall be at liberty to engage labourers for their private service before they leave India, and that the engagements so entered into shall be absolutely binding on the immigrants. Governor Stevenson seemed to contemplate the collection as well as the engagement of such labourers by means of private agency, but Her Majesty's Emigration Commissioners, in their Report to the Secretary of State, express the opinion that private collecting agents should not be allowed, but that all recruiting agents should distinctly be subordinate to the Government Emigration Agent. This opinion is concurred in by Sir E. Bulwer Lytton, who further considers that all requisitions from private persons for labourers should be transmitted through the Government of Mauritius to the emigration agent in India, and that contracts made in India should be limited to three years' duration, the five years' industrial service at present required being made up by subsequent voluntary engagement under penalty of a specified payment for each of the two years remaining.

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MAURITIUS.

4. The Court desire to acknowledge the great care which has been taken to free the proposed plan of engagement to individuals before leaving India of all risk to the Emigrants. Under the arrangements, as approved by the Right Honourable the Secretary of State, the alteration, as it appears to the Court, would amount to little more than permitting the engagement to be made before leaving the port of embarkation in India, instead of confining it to the depôt at the Mauritius, where, it is to be observed, it is required to be made within 48 hours after arrival, where the immigrant can have no further means of acquainting himself with the characters of the planters and the advantages offered on their respective estates, than at the time of his leaving India. The Court do not consider, therefore, that the proposed change would be attended with any of the dangers to the Indian Emigrants to which a system of emigration organised by private persons would be liable, and they are accordingly prepared to give their assent to the principle, as they have indeed already done in regard to emigration from Bombay to British Guiana, subject to a reference to the Government of India for the settlement of the details of the scheme.

5. The Government of India had under their consideration the question of engagements by contract with private parties in the course of the past year, and stated in their letter, No. 24 of 1857, in the Public Department, their opinion of the provisions which should be introduced into the contracts. The Court do not doubt, therefore, that they will be prepared at once to decide on the terms on which such engagements should be permitted to the planters of the Mauritius; and the Court, in preparing the accompanying draft Despatch on the subject, have not therefore thought it necessary to do more than transmit the present correspondence, which will be a sufficient authority for the Government to proceed upon.

The Secretary India Board.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. D. Dickinson.*

Sub-Enclosure 2.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Court of Directors of the East India Company to the Governor General of India in Council.

July 1858.

1. WE forward to you a No. in the packet, a copy of correspondence with the Board of Commissioners for the Affairs of India, relating to a proposed consolidation and alteration of the laws relating to emigration from India to the Mauritius; but principally to the question of giving validity to contracts between private persons in the Mauritius and Indian labourers, to be made in India previous to the embarkation of the emigrants.

2. You will observe that we have expressed our willingness to sanction the alteration in this respect, proposed by the Government of the Mauritius, as finally approved by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies; and we leave it to you to prescribe, in communication with the Government of the Mauritius, the precise terms and conditions on which the proposed scheme shall be carried out.

— No. 19. —

(No. 66.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Right Honourable Sir *E. B. Lytton*, Bart. M. P. to Governor *Stevenson*.

No. 19.
Right Hon. Sir
E. B. Lytton, Bart.
M. P. to Governor
Stevenson.
17 August 1858.

* Page 231.

Sir,

Downing-street, 17 August 1858.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 12th May, No. 119,* forwarding, together with other documents, a Report from the Mauritius Immigration Committee, urging the revocation of the rule restricting emigration from India to Mauritius to the six months during which emigration to the West Indies is not carried on, and the appointment of separate agencies at Calcutta and Madras for Mauritius and the West Indies.

I have to refer you in reply to my predecessor's Despatch of the 4th June last, No. 74,† which will have informed you that the wishes of the Committee have been anticipated.

† Page 287.

I have, &c.
(signed) *E. B. Lytton.*

— No. 20. —

(95.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable Sir *E. B. Lytton*,
Bart. M.P. to Governor *Stevenson*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 26 October 1858.

IN reply to your Despatch, No. 167,* of the 4th August last, reporting that a sum of 4,220 *l.* had been voted by the Council of Government for the enlargement of the immigration depôt, and that you had directed the Surveyor General to take immediate steps for executing this work, I have to state, that having referred your Despatch to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, they have informed me that they are of opinion that this expenditure may be sanctioned.

I have, &c.
(signed) *E. B. Lytton*.

MAURITIUS.

No. 20.

Right Hon. Sir
E. B. Lytton, Bart.
M.P. to Governor
Stevenson.

26 October 1858.

* Page 237.

— No. 21. —

(134.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable Sir *E. B. Lytton*,
Bart. M.P. to Governor *Stevenson*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 30 December 1858.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 24th September, No. 205,† forwarding various Immigration Returns for the six months ending 30th June last.

I transmit so you for your information a copy of a letter from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, to whom I directed these returns to be referred.

I think it will be desirable that the Emigration Agents in India should be instructed to publish and circulate at the ports of embarkation and in the depôts a notice in the native language explaining to the coolies their rights as regards the rate of wages they are entitled to receive.

I have, &c.
(signed) *E. B. Lytton*.

No. 21.
Right Hon. Sir
E. B. Lytton, Bart.
M.P. to Governor
Stevenson.

30 December 1858.

† Page 242.

20 November 1858.
Enclosure.

Enclosure in No. 21.

Encl. in No. 21.

Sir,

Emigration Office, 20 November 1858.

WE have to acknowledge your letter of the 6th instant, in which you transmit various Mauritius Immigration Returns for the half-year ended 30th of June.

2. There are in these returns some points which deserve notice.

3. The number of Indian coolies introduced from the three Presidencies during the above period was as follows :

	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.
From Calcutta - - - - -	3,379	1,501	4,880
„ Madras - - - - -	1,620	764	2,384
„ Bombay - - - - -	584	294	878
TOTAL - - -	5,583	2,559	8,142

The departures during the same period amounted to 3,913, of whom 3,228 were males and 685 were females. The excess, therefore, of immigration over emigration was 4,229, of which excess 2,355 were males and 1,874 females. On the half-yearly increase to the population, therefore, the females bore the proportion of about 80 per cent. to the males.

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4. The total number of coolies remaining in the Colony on the 30th of June was 146,738, of whom there were—

Males	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	109,061
Females	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	37,677

the proportion of females to males being 34½ per cent. The number of births among the immigrant class during the half year amounted to 1,481, and the deaths to 1,495, being at the remarkably small rate of about two per cent. per annum. These small rates are probably to be accounted for, the first by the paucity and irregular habits of the females, the second by the circumstance that immigrant labourers do not remain to die in Mauritius.

5. The average mortality on the voyage amounted to 1½ per cent.; that in the Calcutta ships to 2·3 per cent.; in that in the Madras ships to 0·5 per cent.; and that from Bombay 0·4 (or little more than one-third) per cent. The mortality in the Calcutta emigration is, of course, by far the greatest; being 5 or 6 times greater than in that from Madras or Bombay, nor can it be hoped that any precautions will wholly neutralise the effects of the physical inferiority of the Bengal coolies, and the unhealthy passage down the Hooghley. It will also be observed that the deaths among the hill coolies are stated to exceed greatly those among coolies drawn from other districts. The small mortality in the "Ally" and "Bucephalus" is ascribed to the small proportion of hill coolies on board. In the "Appleton" 16 hill coolies died out of 131 embarked, and only 5 out of the remaining 273 immigrants. In the "Earl of Sefton" 15 deaths out of 18 were among the hill coolies. In one ship only, the "Startled Fawn," it is remarked that the number of hill coolies was large and the mortality not excessive, though even in that ship it amounted to 3 per cent.

6. We have already drawn Mr. Eales' attention to this point, and we shall again write to him, directing him to pay particular attention to the state in which this class of persons are embarked, and to avoid, if possible, placing a large number together in any one ship.

7. The average rate of wages among old immigrants is from 16s. to 17s. a month; the usual rates among new immigrants from 10s. to 12s. All the coolies by one ship (the "Blue Jacket") were engaged at Calcutta at 12s. a month by the agent of a planter, named Rochcombe, under the provisions of the Ordinance No. 12 of 1855. These reduced rates would seem to indicate that the labour supply was more than equal to the demand. But they are said not to be due to this cause, but to the influence and misstatements of recruiters who bring the emigrants out under the idea that they are bound to serve at that rate. The Immigration Agent thinks that it would be advantageous for the coolies to publish and circulate at the port of embarkation and in the dépôt a notice in the native language explaining the coolies' rights in this respect; and this it appears to us might very properly be done.

8. Nothing further occurs to us on these returns on which we need trouble the Secretary of State with any observations.

T. F. Elliot, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

We have, &c.
(signed) T. W. C. Murdoch.
Frederic Rogers.

— No. 22. —

(No. 151.)

No. 22.
Right Hon. Sir
E. B. Lytton, Bart.
M.P. to Governor
Stevenson.
22 January 1859.

* Page 243.

8 January 1859.
Enclosure.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart. M.P. to Governor Stevenson.

Sir,

Downing-street, 22 January 1859.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 27th September last, No. 211,* having reference to the survey of emigrant ships proceeding from Mauritius to India.

I transmit to you for your information and guidance, a copy of a letter from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, to whom I directed your Despatch to be referred.

I regret to find from the report of the Protector of Immigrants which you enclose, that no survey of emigrant ships had ever taken place, and that he had never received a copy of the Passengers Act.

These, however, are omissions which are chargeable on your predecessor, and not on yourself; but it will remain with you to give such instructions as will ensure a proper survey of all passenger ships before they are allowed to clear out for the colony.

I enclose four copies of the Passengers Act of 1855, and also of the Act of 1853.

I have, &c.
(signed) E. B. Lytton.

18 & 19 Vict.
c. 119.
16 & 17 Vict.
c. 84.

Enclosure in No. 22.

MAURITIUS.

Encl. in No. 22.

Sir,

Emigration Office, 8 January 1859.

I HAVE to acknowledge your letter of 24th ultimo, enclosing a Despatch from the Governor of Mauritius on the subject of the "Bengal Merchant" emigrant ship.

2. The "Bengal Merchant" was taken up for the conveyance of return coolies from Mauritius to Calcutta. This vessel had been previously rejected at Calcutta as unseaworthy, and no repairs had in the interval been effected in her. The Protector of emigrants, at Calcutta, in reporting the case, pointed out, that if the ship had met with bad weather, the lives of the coolies would have been in great danger, and suggested that all return coolie ships (not having taken emigrants to Mauritius) should be surveyed, and that no rejected ship should be accepted unless it could be shown that she had been properly repaired.

3. In reporting on the case, we pointed out, that an emigrant ship sailing from Mauritius to India would fall within the provisions of the Passenger Act, 1855, which requires a full survey of a ship and a certificate of her seaworthiness before she is allowed to clear. And we suggested, that the Governor should be requested to state whether such a survey had been made of the "Bengal Merchant," and if it had, to send home the certificate given by the surveyors. The Governor now transmits, in answer, a report from the Protector of immigrants, stating, that no survey of emigrant ships had ever taken place; that he had never received a copy of the Passenger Act, and was not aware of its provisions. He adds, however, that since the representation received from India about the "Bengal Merchant," every ship taken up to carry return coolies has been surveyed "when she has not come in with immigrants," and a copy of the survey has been forwarded to the Protector of immigrants in India.

4. The omission to enforce the provisions of the Passenger Act in the case of return coolie ships from Mauritius, or to take any precaution that they were fit for their intended voyages, is certainly a very grave omission on the part of the authorities of the colony. There is great reason to be thankful that, notwithstanding the little care taken, no accident has happened. I would submit, that copies of the Passenger Act, 1855 (18 & 19 Vict., c. 119), and of the Act of 1853 (16 & 17 Vict., c. 84), which relates to the emigration of Asiatics and Africans, should be sent for the information of the Protector of immigrants. I also enclose for his assistance, a copy of the surveyor's certificate of survey, and of the emigration officer's certificate of clearance in use in this country. And I would suggest that it should be pointed out to him, that all passenger ships must be surveyed before they are allowed to clear out from the colony, and that no distinction can in this respect be made between ordinary ships and those which may have brought immigrants into the colony.

Herman Merivale, Esq., C. B.
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) T. W. C. Murdoch.

— No. 23.—

(No. 172.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable Sir E. B. Lytton,
Bart. M. P. to Governor Stevenson.

Sir,

Downing-street, 26 February 1859.

I REFERRED your Despatch, No. 260,* of the 1st December last, on the subject of the ship "Bengal Merchant," to the Emigration Commissioners for their report; and I transmit to you for your information a copy of the answer of the Commissioners.

I have to express to you my concurrence in the remarks contained in this report.

I have, &c.
(signed) E. B. Lytton.

No. 23.

Right Hon. Sir
E. B. Lytton, Bart.
M. P. to Governor
Stevenson.

26 February 1859.

* Page 254.

14 February 1859.
Enclosure.

Enclosure in No. 23.

Encl. in No. 23.

Sir,

Emigration Office, 14 February 1859.

I HAVE to acknowledge your letter of 5th instant, enclosing a further Despatch from the Governor of Mauritius on the subject of the ship "Bengal Merchant," employed in the autumn of 1856 in the conveyance of return coolies to Calcutta.

2. In our report of 25th May last, it was stated, on the authority of a correspondence received from the Indian Board, that the "Bengal Merchant," on her voyage from Calcutta to Mauritius, immediately before she was taken up for return coolies, leaked so much that her cargo was thrown overboard, and her pumps could scarcely keep the water under,

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" although

MAURITIUS.

"although she met with no bad weather on the voyage." The Protector of immigrants in Mauritius now transmits a declaration from the master of the "Bengal Merchant," to the effect, that on the voyage referred to she met with very bad weather; that she threw over only a portion of her cargo; that her voyage from Mauritius to Calcutta with return emigrants was perfectly successful; and that she has since been taken up, without having been repaired, for the conveyance of Government stores to Rangoon. The inference which Mr. Hugon desires to have drawn is, that the ship was perfectly seaworthy when taken up for return coolies, and that no blame attaches to him in the matter.

3. It seems unnecessary to pursue this discussion. It is admitted that the Government of Mauritius were unconscious that the Imperial Passenger Act applied to vessels carrying emigrants from that Island to India, and consequently that none of the precautions required by the Act to ensure the sea-worthiness of such vessels had been observed. I suggested in my Report on this case of 8th ultimo, that the real state of the law should be pointed out to the Governor, and that he should be furnished with copies of the Passenger Act and of the certificates of survey and clearance in use in this country. If the law is properly put in force, there is no risk that an unseaworthy ship will hereafter be employed in the emigration service. But it is clear that whatever may have been the case with the "Bengal Merchant," there has heretofore been no security on that point as regards ships taken up in Mauritius.

I have, &c.
(signed) *T. W. C. Murdoch.*

Herman Merivale, Esq., C. B.
&c. &c. &c.

— No. 24. —

(No. 183.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable Sir *E. B. Lytton*,
Bart. M.P. to Governor *Stevenson*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 1 April 1859.

WITH reference to your Despatch, No. 96,* dated the 24th April 1858, I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government approve of the plan of placing the Emigration Agency at Bombay on the footing recommended by the Immigration Committee (involving a charge of 995*l.* 16*s.* per annum for establishment and contingencies), subject to the annual revision which they propose, and of your having given effect to the measure in anticipation of sanction.

I have, &c.
(signed) *E. B. Lytton.*

No. 24.

Right Hon. Sir
E. B. Lytton, Bart.
M.P. to Governor
Stevenson.

1 April 1859.

* Page 224.

A P P E N D I X.

Appendix, No. 1.

ST. LUCIA.—No. 2.—13th July 1857.

Appendix, No. 1.

(L. S.)

F. Hincks.

AN ORDINANCE enacted by his Excellency, *Francis Hincks*, Esq. Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the Island of *Saint Lucia* and its Dependencies, and by the Legislative Council thereof, &c. &c. &c., to amend the Ordinance, No. 3, of the 22d day of April 1854, providing for the Immigration of Coolies into this Colony.

Title.

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend an Ordinance passed by the Lieutenant Governor and Legislative Council of this Colony, on the 22d day of April 1854, entitled, "An Ordinance to provide for the Immigration of Coolies into this Colony, at the public expense, and for the regulation and government of such Immigrants."

Preamble.

Be it therefore and it is hereby enacted and ordained, by his Excellency Francis Hincks, Esq., Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the island of Saint Lucia and its Dependencies, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Legislative Council of Government, in exercise of the power and authority in him and them vested by Her Majesty in that behalf.

Words of enactment.

1. That the term Governor shall include any person lawfully administering the government of the Colony, and the term Immigration Agent shall include any stipendiary magistrate or other person appointed by the Lieutenant Governor to exercise any of the functions of the immigration agent.

Words of construction and generalisation.

2. And be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for the Governor in Council, from time to time, to make regulations for allowing to Indian labourers such holidays or days to be observed as religious festivals, as to him shall seem fit, anything in Section 14 of the said Ordinance of the 22d day of April 1854, to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

Authority to Governor to regulate holidays to Indian labourers.

3. And be it enacted, that it shall be the duty of the Immigration Agent to collect and take possession of the property of any cooly immigrant who shall die in this Colony, and (with the sanction of the Governor) to deliver all such property to any person in the Colony who shall establish a right to the same, or in the absence of any such person, to turn the said property into money, and pay the proceeds into the Colonial Treasury, in order that the same may be remitted to the person or persons in India or elsewhere who shall be entitled thereto.

Property of cooly immigrants how to be disposed of by Immigration Agent.

4. And be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for the Governor to make all regulations necessary for giving effect to the provisions of the last preceding clause, and any person contravening such regulations shall be liable, on conviction thereof, before the Royal Court of this island, to a penalty not exceeding 5 l.

Governor authorised to make regulations for enforcing the last preceding clause. Penalty for contravening regulations.

5. And be it enacted, that the Immigration Agent shall board every ship arriving in the Colony with cooly immigrants, and shall ascertain and report to the Governor the number of immigrants embarked in her, the state of their health, the number of deaths which have occurred on the voyage, and whether the provisions of the charter-party under which such immigrants have been conveyed from India have been performed, and the said immigration agent shall thereupon assign the said immigrants to planters, who shall be ready to employ them in manner provided by the hereinbefore mentioned Ordinance of the 22d day of April 1854, and still such assignment shall provide them with proper and sufficient food and lodging: Provided

Immigration Agent to board ship with cooly immigrants and report the number of immigrants embarked, their health, and number of deaths, &c. Assignment of immigrants by Immigration Agent in terms of the Ordinance of the 22d April 1854.

Appendix, No. 1.

Wages.

In all allotments wishes of immigrants to be attended to.
No husband and wife or parent and child to be separated.

Inspection by immigration agent of estates on which Indian labourers are employed.

Immigration Agent to inquire into complaints and report the result to Governor.

Penalty for obstructing Immigration Agent in the performance of his duties.

Power of Immigration Agent, with the sanction of Governor, to cancel contract.

Duties of Immigration Agent, when ships leave the Colony with return immigrants, to be the same as those imposed on emigration officers in England by Passengers Act 1855.

Certain words in section 1st of the Ordinance of the 22d April 1854, and 9th and the 24th sections of the said Ordinance repealed.

Immigrants who are entitled to a free passage back to India.

Notice to applicant for return passage when such passage can be given to him.

Allowance to be granted to cooly immigrant entitled to a free passage until such passage be offered him.

Governor to provide back passage for cooly immigrant unfit for labour.

Contract how and when valid.

Ordinance when to be in force.

vided always, that the wages payable to the said immigrants (subject to the deductions mentioned in Schedule A. to the said Ordinance), shall be equal to the wages paid to labourers not receiving gratis medical attendance, lodging, or provision grounds: Provided also, that in such allotment the wishes of the immigrants shall, as far as possible, be ascertained and attended to, and that in no case whatever shall any husband and wife, nor any parent or child, be allotted to different employers.

6. That the Immigration Agent shall, at least twice in the course of every year, inspect every estate on which Indian labourers are employed, and shall ascertain whether such immigrants are properly treated, and shall inquire into any complaints which may be made by the employer against the immigrants, or by the immigrants against the employer, and shall report the result to the Lieutenant Governor; and any person obstructing the immigration agent in the performance of such duty shall be subject and liable to the penalties imposed by Section 23 of the said Ordinance of the 22d day of April 1854.

7. And be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for the Immigration Agent, with the sanction of the Governor, to cancel the contract of service of any cooly immigrant, who, being paid according to the quantity of his work, shall not have received work sufficient in the opinion of the said immigration agent to enable him to earn a reasonable amount of wages.

8. And be it enacted, that in respect of all ships leaving the Colony with return immigrants, the Immigration Agent shall perform all the duties imposed on emigration officers in England, by the Passengers Act, 1855.

9. That the words "at the expiration of their industrial residence," in Section 1 of the hereinbefore mentioned Ordinance of the 22d day of April 1854, and the 9th and 24th Sections of the said Ordinance are repealed, and the same are hereby repealed accordingly.

10. And be it enacted, that every cooly immigrant shall be entitled to a free passage back to India who shall have resided ten years in the Colony, and during the said ten years shall have completed an industrial residence of five years in manner prescribed by the aforesaid Ordinance of the 22d day of April 1854; Provided always, that no such free passage shall be applied for except within 18 months of the time at which it shall have become due.

11. And be it enacted, that the Governor shall give to each applicant for a return passage at least three months' notice, as precise as circumstances render possible, of the period at which such passage will be offered him.

12. And be it enacted, that there shall be paid to every cooly immigrant, who shall become entitled to a free passage to India, the sum of 25s. for every six calendar months which shall intervene between his application for such passage and his receiving an actual offer of or opportunity for the same.

13. And be it enacted, that the Governor may provide a back passage, at the expense of the Colony, for any cooly emigrant who may have become unfit for labour at any period of his industrial residence.

14. And be it enacted, that except as provided by the said Ordinance of the 22d day of April 1854, no contract of service made for a period of more than three months by any cooly immigrant, not having completed his industrial residence, shall be valid as against such immigrant unless it shall have been made in the presence of and approved by the immigration agent, nor unless there shall have been paid to such Immigration Agent the sum of 12s. 6d. for every period of six months for which such contract is to endure.

15. And be it enacted, that this ordinance shall take effect and be in force, from and after the proclamation thereof.

Given under my hand and the great seal of the said Island of Saint Lucia, this 13th day of July, in the year of our Lord 1857, and in the 21st year of her Majesty's reign.

By command,

(signed)

Henry H. Breen, Colonial Secretary.

Appendix, No. 2.

Appendix, No. 2.

ST. LUCIA.—No. 13.—19th November 1857.

(L. S.)

Henry H. Breen,
Administrator of the Government.

AN ORDINANCE, enacted by *Henry Hegart Breen*, Esq., Administrator of the Government of the Island of *St. Lucia* and its Dependencies, and by the Legislative Council thereof, &c. &c. &c., to make provision from the General Revenue of the Colony, for the deficiency arising in the "Education Fund," in consequence of the repeal of certain clauses of the Ordinance No. 7, of the 13th day of February 1851, entitled: "An Ordinance to raise Funds for Promoting the Education of the Inhabitants of this Island, and for facilitating their means of intercourse by the Construction and Maintenance of Roads and Bridges." Title.

WHEREAS by clause 3, of the Ordinance No. 7, of the 13th day of February 1851, entitled: "An Ordinance to raise funds for Promoting the Education of the Inhabitants of this Island, and for facilitating their means of intercourse by the Construction and Maintenance of Roads and Bridges," a tax of 6s. 6d. is imposed for, and in respect of every house within the limits of this Colony, except as therein excepted. Preamble.

And whereas, by the said Clause 3 of the said Ordinance, it is further enacted that of the aforesaid sum of 6s. 6d., 4s. shall be placed by the Colonial Treasurer to the credit of a fund to be called the "Education Fund," and be at the disposal of the Board of Education.

And whereas, by the Ordinance No. 12, of the 19th day of November 1857, entitled: "An Ordinance to repeal the existing Laws in respect to Roads and Bridges in this Island of *St. Lucia*, and to make better provision for the formation and keeping in repair of the Public Roads and Bridges of the said Island," the said Clause 3 of the said Ordinance No. 7, of the 13th day of February 1851, has been repealed; and in consequence of such repeal, there will be a deficiency of about 500*l.* sterling in the said "Education Fund."

Be it therefore and it is hereby enacted and ordained, by *Henry Hegart Breen*, Esq., Administrator of the Government of the Island of *St. Lucia* and its Dependencies, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council of this Island, in exercise of the powers and authority in him and them vested by Her Majesty in that behalf. Enacting clause.

1. That for the purpose of supplying the deficiency which may arise in the "Education Fund," in consequence of the repeal of the aforesaid tax of 6s. 6d., it shall be lawful for Her Majesty's Treasurer, and he is hereby authorised, to appropriate in each and every year from any surplus of the General Revenue of the Colony, a sum not exceeding 500*l.* sterling, which sum shall be carried to the credit of the said "Education Fund," and be at the disposal of the Board of Education. Authorises H. M. Treasurer to appropriate annually out of any surplus of the general revenue a sum not exceeding 500*l.*, and to carry same to credit of "Education Fund," to be at disposal of Board of Education.

2. And be it enacted, That this Ordinance shall take effect, and be in force, from and after the Proclamation thereof. Ordinance to be in force on and after its proclamation.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the Island of *St. Lucia*, this 19th day of November, in the Year of our Lord 1857, and in the 21st year of Her Majesty's reign.

By Command, (signed) *George M. McLeod*,
Chief Clerk.

Duly proclaimed in the Town of Castries, on the 15th day of June, in the year 1858.

Chs. Bennett, Provost Marshal.

Appendix, No. 3.

Appendix, No. 3.

ST. LUCIA.—No. 5.—21st July 1858.

(L. S.)

Henry H. Breen,
Administrator of the Government.

AN ORDINANCE enacted by *Henry Hegart Breen*, Esquire, Administrator of the Government of the Island of *Saint Lucia* and its Dependencies, and by the Legislative Council thereof, &c. &c. &c., to amend the Ordinance No. 7 of the 2nd day of May 1850, entitled "An Ordinance for promoting African Immigration into the Colony of *St. Lucia*, and the Industry of the Immigrants." Title.

WHEREAS by a certain Ordinance made and passed in this Island, on the 2d day of May 1850, for promoting African immigration into this Colony of *St. Lucia*, and the industry of the immigrants, it is among other things provided that no agreement shall be construed to be an engagement to labour, within the meaning of the said Ordinance, unless such agreement shall be expressed to be, if a first agreement, on the part of the immigrant, for the term of 12 months. Preamble.

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And

Appendix, No. 3.

And whereas by the said Ordinance it is further provided that in cases of captured Africans, who on their arrival in this Colony shall not have attained the age of 17 years, it shall be lawful to make their first contract for service extend over the period between the date of the said contract, and the date of their attaining the age of 18 years.

And whereas it is expedient to amend the said Ordinance, by extending the period for which agreements may be made with African immigrants in this Colony.

Words of enactment.

Be it therefore, and it is hereby enacted and ordained by Henry Hegart Breen, Esquire, Administrator of the Government of the Island of St. Lucia, and its Dependencies, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Legislative Council of this Island, in exercise of the powers and authority in him and them vested by Her Majesty in that behalf.

Agreements with African immigrants who shall have attained the age of 18 years to be for a period not exceeding three years from date of agreement.

1. That from and after the proclamation of this Ordinance, every agreement with an African immigrant, who on his arrival in this Colony shall have attained the age of 18 years, shall be expressed to be for a term not exceeding three years, to commence from the date of such agreement.

Agreements with African immigrants under 18 years, to be from date of agreement to date of attaining said age of 18 years.

2. And be it enacted that every agreement with an African immigrant, who on arrival in this Colony shall not have attained the age of 18 years, shall extend from the date of such agreement to the date of his attaining the said age of 18 years.

Ordinance, when to be in force.

3. And be it enacted that this Ordinance shall take effect, and be in force from and after the proclamation thereof.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the said Island of St. Lucia, this 21st day of July, in the year of our Lord 1858, and in the 22d year of Her Majesty's reign.

By command,

(signed) *George M. M' Cleod,*
Chief Clerk.

Appendix, No. 4.

Appendix, No. 4.

(L. S.)

No. 560.

C. Ready, Lieut.-Colonel,
Administrator of Government.

No. CCLXXX.

AN ACT to promote the Immigration of Free Labourers from Africa.—(26th May 1858.)

Expenses incurred for introduction of African immigrants to be paid out of the Colonial Treasury.

BE it and it is hereby enacted by the Governor, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly of the Island of Grenada and its Dependencies, that it shall be lawful for the Governor from time to time to issue and pay from and out of the Colonial Treasury, to such person or persons as Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies shall from time to time appoint, all and every such sum and sums of money, charges, costs, or expenses as shall or may from time to time be paid, expended, or incurred by Her Majesty's Government, or by the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, or by the Governor of any or either of Her Majesty's Colonies or possessions in Africa, or by any person appointed or to be appointed by them, or either of them, in the hiring, employing, or licensing of any vessel for bringing or sending any free and voluntary immigrants into this Colony from any of Her Majesty's said Colonies or possessions in Africa, and in providing for the maintenance and clothing of such immigrants during their passage, and such other just expenditure as shall be caused by and be necessarily incidental to such immigration.

Incorporated with Act No. 230.

2. This Act shall be incorporated with the Act passed on the 8th day of September, in the year of our Lord 1855, intituled "An Act to alter the Law of Contracts with regard to Immigrants, and for the Encouragement of Immigration, and for the general Regulation of Immigrants," and be read and construed with the said Act as one Act.

Passed the Assembly the 5th day of May, in the year of our Lord 1858.

(signed) *John Wells,*
Clerk of Assembly.

Passed the Legislative Council the 5th day of May, in the year of our Lord 1858.

(signed) *Samuel Mitchell,*
Clerk of Council.

Dated at Grenada, this 26th day of May, 1858.

(L. M. S.)

(signed) *Henry Garraway,*
Speaker.

(signed) *F. Y. Checkley,*
President.

Assented to by his Honour the President and Commander in Chief, this 26th day of May, in the year of our Lord 1858, and in the 21st year of Her Majesty's reign. Appendix, No. 4.

(signed) *Samuel Mitchell*,
Colonial Secretary.

Duly published in the town of St. George, in the Island of Grenada, this 26th day of May, in the year of our Lord 1858, and in the 21st year of Her Majesty's reign.

(signed) *Henry Sharpe*,
Provost Marshal.

(A true copy.)
Samuel Mitchell,
Colonial Secretary.

Appendix, No. 5.

Appendix, No. 5.

(L. S.)
C. Ready, Lieut. Colonel,
Administrator of Government.

No. 561.

No. CCLXXXI.

AN ACT to impose certain Duties upon the Exportation from this Government of certain Goods, grown, produced, or manufactured in Grenada or its Dependencies, to be applied for the purposes of Immigration, and for no other purpose. (September 6, 1858.)

WHEREAS it is expedient to grant a further aid to Her Majesty for the purposes of immigration, by imposing certain duties upon all sugar, molasses, rum, and cocoa grown, produced, or manufactured in and exported from the Island of Grenada or its dependencies; Be it therefore and it is hereby enacted by the Governor, the Legislative Council and Assembly of Grenada and its dependencies, as follows:— Preamble.

1. From and after the passing of this Act there shall be raised, levied, collected, and paid unto Her Majesty, her heirs and successors, the several duties set forth in figures in the Schedule of Duties to this Act annexed, upon the exportation from this Government of any sugar, molasses, rum, or cocoa grown, produced, or manufactured in Grenada or its dependencies. Duties to be paid on exportation of produce specified in Schedule annexed.

2. Before any vessel shall depart this island or any of its dependencies, the master, except as hereinafter mentioned, of such vessel shall make out and deliver to the public treasurer at the Treasury in the town of Saint George, or Colonial revenue officer at the port of shipment, a manifest outwards, according to the form marked (A) in the Schedule to this Act annexed, signed by him, of the goods laden on board of such vessel, and the names of the respective shippers of such goods, with the marks and numbers of the packages or parcels of the same, and shall declare to the truth of such manifest as far as any such particulars can be known to him; Provided always, that in the case of any steam vessel, or other vessel now or hereafter to be employed in carrying the mails between England and this island, or between this island and the other Islands and Colonies in the West Indies, the master thereof shall not be required to deliver or declare to any such manifest outwards as aforesaid; but such vessel shall be permitted to depart this island, and the agent or superintendent of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company at the port of Saint George, instead of such master, shall, within 24 hours after the departure of every such vessel, make out and deliver to the public treasurer at the said Treasury, a similar manifest outwards of the goods laden on board of such steam or other vessel as last aforesaid, and make a similar declaration as to the contents and other particulars of such manifest in all respects as is hereinbefore in that behalf required of masters of vessels departing from this island. Manifest of cargo to be delivered by master of vessel previously to departing. Proviso as to vessels carrying mails.

3. Every master of any such vessel (except as before excepted) who shall depart or attempt to depart from this island, or any of its dependencies, without having delivered to the treasurer or Colonial revenue officer as aforesaid such manifest outwards, or without having declared to the truth of the same as aforesaid, or who shall deliver a false manifest outwards, and every agent or superintendent of the said Company who shall fail or neglect, within 24 hours after the departure of any steam or other vessel employed in carrying such mails as aforesaid, to deliver to the treasurer as aforesaid such manifest outwards as is hereinbefore required to be made out and delivered by him to such treasurer, or who shall neglect or refuse to declare to the truth of the same, or who shall deliver a false manifest outwards, shall, on conviction thereof before any two or more justices of the peace, forfeit and pay a fine not exceeding 20*l.*, and in default of payment shall be imprisoned for a term not exceeding three months. Penalty for not delivering or declaring to the truth of manifest, or for delivering a false manifest.

4. Every person, upon exporting from this Government any goods, shall, by himself or authorised agent, deliver to the public treasurer, or Colonial revenue officer at the port of shipment, a bill of entry thereof, according to the form marked (B) in the Schedule to this Act annexed, expressing the name of the vessel, and of the master and of the place to which the goods are to be exported, and the quantities and proper denominations or descriptions of such goods. Bill of entry outwards to be delivered by person exporting, and who shall declare to the truth thereof, and pay duties.

Appendix, No. 5.

such goods, as well as the respective packages containing such goods, and in the margin of such bill of entry shall delineate the respective marks and numbers of such packages, and shall specify and state in such bill of entry which, if any, of such goods have been grown, produced, or manufactured in this island or its dependencies, and if any duty shall be payable on any such goods, according to the value, number, weight, or measure of such goods, such value, number, weight, or measure shall be stated in the entry; and the person who shall make such bill of entry shall, in writing, on such bill of entry, declare to the truth of the same, and sign such declaration in the presence of the public treasurer, or such Colonial revenue officer, at his office, and shall then and there pay all duties payable in respect of such goods.

Penalty for not delivering or declaring to the truth of bill of entry, or for delivering a false bill of entry.

5. Every exporter of goods who shall fail or neglect to deliver such a bill of entry as hereinbefore required, of the goods so exported or intended to be exported by him, and every such exporter or agent as aforesaid who shall neglect or refuse to declare to the truth of any bill of entry delivered by him as aforesaid, or who shall deliver to the treasurer or Colonial revenue officer any bill of entry which shall be false in any particular, shall, for each and every such offence, upon conviction thereof before any two or more justices of the peace, on the complaint of the treasurer or a Colonial revenue officer, forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding 20*l*, over and above the amount of duties payable in respect of such goods, and in default of payment of such penalty and duties, or either of them, shall be imprisoned for a term not exceeding 30 days.

Duties, &c. levied under this Act, how to be applied.

6. All taxes, duties, and moneys which shall be levied, paid to, or received by the public treasurer under this Act, shall be applied solely for the purposes of immigration; and all fines and penalties hereby imposed shall be paid to the treasurer at the said Treasury, and shall be and the same are hereby reserved to Her Majesty, her heirs and successors, for the public uses of this island and its dependencies, and in support of the Government thereof.

Duration of Act.

7. This Act shall continue in force for three years, and no longer.

SCHEDULE OF DUTIES

Payable on Articles grown, produced, or manufactured in and exported from this Island or its Dependencies, under the authority of this Act.

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Sugar—For every hhd. of 42-inch truss, not exceeding 2,000 lbs in weight	6	8
Ditto - ditto - - 40-inch ditto - ditto - 1,800 ditto - -	6	-
Ditto - ditto - - 38-inch ditto - ditto - 1,650 ditto - -	5	6
Ditto - tierce - - - - - ditto - 1,000 ditto - -	3	4
Ditto - barrel - - - - - ditto - 250 ditto - -	-	10
All other packages, for every 100 lbs. of the weight thereof	-	4
Molasses—For every puncheon - - - - -	1	6
Rum - ditto puncheon, not exceeding 120 gallons content - -	2	6
Ditto - ditto hogshead, not exceeding 60 ditto - - -	1	3
Other packages or quantities, for each and every gallon thereof -	-	4
Cocoa—For every 100 lbs. of the weight thereof - - -	-	3

And at and after the same rates for any greater or smaller quantity.

(A.)			
Port of	Content in the	Master, for	Men,
	Tons,	Guns,	
	{ Passengers or Troops. }		Built of
Marks and Nos. of Packages.	Shippers.	Quantity and Description of Goods.	Consignees.

I, Master of the Vessel above named, do declare that the content above written, now tendered and subscribed by me, is a just and true account of all the goods laden on board my ship for this present voyage, and of the names of the respective shippers and consignees of the said goods, and of the marks and numbers of the packages containing the same.

Signed and Declared before me, at the Custom-house }
at the Port of }
the Day of 185 }

Outwards.	In the Ship	(B.)	Master, for	Exporter's name.		
Marks and Nos. on Packages.	Denomination of Packages, Quantity, Weight, Measure, and Description of Goods.	Place of Growth or Production.	Consignees.	Value.	Duty.	

I, do declare that the above is a true account of the goods shipped by me, and that the value set opposite the same is correct.

Declared to before me this day of 185

Passed the Assembly this 17th day of August, in the year of our Lord 1858.

(signed) *John Wells,*
Clerk of Assembly.

Passed the Legislative Council this 18th day of August 1858.

(signed) *Samuel Mitchell,*
Clerk of the Council.

Dated at Grenada, this 6th day of September, in the Year of Our Lord 1858.

(signed) *Henry Garraway,*
Speaker.

(L. M. S.)

(signed) *C. Ready,* Lieut.-Colonel,
Administrator of the Government.

Assented to by his Honour the Administrator of the Government and Commander in Chief, this 6th day of September, in the year of Our Lord 1858, and in the 22d year of Her Majesty's reign.

(signed) *Samuel Mitchell,*
Colonial Secretary.

Duly published in the Town of St. George, in the Island of Grenada, this 6th day of September, in the year of Our Lord 1858, and in the 22d year of Her Majesty's reign.

(signed) *Henry Sharpe,*
Provost Marshal.

(A true copy.)

(signed) *Samuel Mitchell,*
Colonial Secretary.

Appendix, No. 6.

Appendix, No. 6.

(L. S.)

C. Ready,
Administrator of Government.

No. 564.

No. CCLXXXIV.

An Act to Improve the Laws regulating Immigration to Grenada, and to increase the Salary of the Immigration Agent.—(17 November 1858.)

Be it enacted by the Governor, the Legislative Council, and the Assembly of the Island of Grenada and its Dependencies, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. All complaints, differences, and disputes which shall arise between employer and immigrant respecting any matter or thing treated of in the Act, intituled, "An Act to alter the Law of Contracts with regard to Immigrants, and for the Encouragement of Immigration, and for the general Regulation of Innigrants," or in any other Act amending the same, shall and may be heard and determined (except where otherwise specially provided) by any special or local stipendiary magistrate, as well as by the police magistrate, or by any two justices, and it shall be lawful for any such special or local stipendiary magistrate sitting alone to do any act authorised by the said recited Act to be done by the police magistrate sitting alone, or by any two justices of the peace.

Jurisdiction over complaints under Immigration Acts extended to stipendiary magistrates.

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S S 2

2. After

Appendix, No. 6.

Salary of Immigration Agent to be 150*l.* per annum.

No. 230 and this Act to be as one.

2. After the passing of this Act, the Immigration Agent shall be paid annually such salary, not exceeding 150*l.*, as the Governor in Council shall determine, instead of the salary mentioned and provided in the sixth section of the said recited Act, and so much of the said sixth section of the said recited Act as provides a salary for the Immigration Agent shall be and the same is hereby repealed.

3. This Act shall be construed as one Act with the said recited Act.

Passed the Assembly this 27th day of October, in the year of our Lord 1858.

(signed) *John Wells,*
Clerk of Assembly.

Passed the Council this 27th day of October 1858.

(signed) *Samuel Mitchell,*
Clerk of Council.

Dated at Grenada, the 17th day of November 1858.

(signed) *Henry Garraway,*
Speaker.

(L. M. S.)

(signed) *C. Ready,*
Administrator of the Government.

Assented to by his Honour the Administrator of the Government and Commander-in-Chief, this 17th day of November, in the year of Our Lord 1858, and in the 22d year of Her Majesty's reign.

(signed) *Samuel Mitchell,*
Colonial Secretary.

Duly published in the Town of Saint George, in the Island of Grenada, this 17th day of November, in the year of Our Lord 1858, and in the 22d year of Her Majesty's reign.

(signed) *Henry Sharpe,*
Provost Marshal.

(A true copy.)
Samuel Mitchell,
Colonial Secretary.

Appendix, No. 7.

Appendix, No. 7.

No. 481.

ANNO VICESIMO VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

Cap. IX.

AN ACT to remove Doubts as to the Rights of the Liberated Africans in Tobago.—
(11th May 1857.)

BE it and it is hereby enacted by the Governor by and with the Advice and Consent of the Legislative Council and the Elective Legislative Assembly as follows:—

Liberated Africans to be deemed for all purposes as natural-born subjects.

1. All Liberated Africans domiciled or resident, or who hereafter may be domiciled or resident in the Island, shall be deemed to be and to have been for all purposes as from the date of their being brought into or of their arrival in this colony, natural-born subjects of Her Majesty, and to be and to have been capable of taking, holding, conveying, devising, and transmitting any estate real or personal within this colony.

Who to be deemed liberated Africans.

2. For the purposes of this Act, the words "Liberated Africans" shall mean and include all persons dealt with or detained as slaves, who heretofore have been or hereafter may be seized or taken under any of the Acts for the Abolition or Suppression of the Slave Trade by Her Majesty's ships of war or otherwise, and liberated or delivered to the officers appointed to protect, receive, or provide for such persons and all other persons who as having been dealt with, carried, kept, or detained as slaves may have been taken and liberated, or received, protected, or provided for under any of the said Acts.

Provisions of the Acts for abolition of the Slave Trade not to be affected. Operation of Act.

3. Provided always, that nothing in this Act shall in anywise prejudice or interfere with any of the provisions in relation to such Liberated Africans as aforesaid of the laws in force for the abolition or suppression of the slave trade.

4. This Act shall not come into operation until Her Majesty's pleasure thereon shall be signified in this colony.

Appendix, No. 8.

Appendix, No. 8.

ST. VINCENT.

No. 702.

AN ACT to alter the Law of Contracts with regard to Immigrants, and for the Encouragement of Immigration, and for the General Regulation of Immigrants.—[16th October, 1857.]

WHEREAS certain persons have been appointed agents by Her Majesty to superintend the emigration of labourers from certain places to Her Majesty's Colonies in the West Indies, Be it enacted by the Governor, Council, and Assembly of the Island of Saint Vincent and its dependencies, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority of the same, as follows :—

1. The Governor may, from time to time, pay a part of the salary or remuneration granted by Her Majesty to each of such agents as are or may be hereafter so appointed, in proportion to the number of emigrants that may be sent to this Colony and its dependencies. Payment of agents.
2. The Governor may pay the amount of every moderate and necessary expense, incurred at any port or place where any such agent is appointed, for the collection of emigrants, in conveying emigrants to the port of embarkation, in maintaining them there, for a period not exceeding 15 days, and in providing them with such supply of clothing as may be requisite for their voyage to this Colony, upon the receipt from such agent of an account thereof, duly vouched, showing the particulars of such expenditure, countersigned by the Governor of such place, or by such officer as he may appoint, if the same be a British possession, or by Her Majesty's Consul at any foreign port or place, such Governor, Officer, or Consul, as the case may be, certifying thereby, so far as he knows, that such expenditure has been solely incurred for the purposes aforesaid, or for any such purposes, and is just and reasonable, and may likewise pay the amount of any expenditure incurred by Her Majesty's Government, or by Commissioners appointed by Her Majesty's Government, at the request of the Governor and Council, in the hiring, employing, and licensing of any vessel for bringing or sending emigrants to this Colony from the East Indies or from China, and in providing for the maintenance and clothing of such emigrants during their passage or otherwise, in employing on board any such vessel a surgeon, and such other just expenditure as shall be caused by and be necessarily incidental to such emigration to this Colony, and all just expenses caused by and necessarily incidental to sending back any immigrants from the East Indies, at the expiration of their stipulated term of residence, to the place from whence they shall have been brought or sent into this Colony. Payment of expenses abroad.
3. The Governor in Council may, from time to time, by proclamation, name the ports or places from which emigration on bounty is permitted to this Colony, and may fix such rate of bounty as to him shall seem just for indemnifying the person at whose charge any immigrant may be introduced into this Colony, for the expense of his maintenance and passage from the port of embarkation, and shall, in his proclamation to be issued for that purpose, declare the number of weeks deemed necessary for the voyage of any such ship or vessel from such respective ports or places to this Colony: provided always, that no rate of bounty shall be fixed, and that no bounty shall be allowed for the importation of any immigrant, who may be incompetent or unwilling to engage in agricultural labour, or for any immigrant above the age of 40 years, unless in either case such immigrant shall be one of a family of immigrants arriving in the same vessel, and provided that bounty or passage money shall not be paid for any greater number of immigrants imported by any one vessel from the Island of Madeira, from any of the Azores, Cape de Verds, or Canary Islands, and other places of similar distance, than at the rate of one immigrant for each ton of the measurement of said vessel. Governor to name places for Emigration on Bounty, and fix rate and number of weeks allowed for passage.
4. Any person who, having first obtained a licence to that effect from the Governor in Council, which licence the Governor in Council shall grant or refuse at discretion, shall introduce at his own expense immigrants, under written contract with him for service upon his own plantation, shall be entitled to receive from the immigration funds one-half of the rate or bounty which would have been payable, under any such proclamation, as aforesaid, for each such immigrant, if introduced at the public expense; provided that the person applying for such licence as aforesaid, shall give to the Governor in Council such security as he may require for the carrying out the object of such licence, and that the number of such immigrants paid for shall not exceed the number stated in the licence to be granted to such person, as aforesaid. Limitation of Bounty.
5. The Governor to nominate and appoint a fit and proper person, to be styled "The Immigration Agent," and any such person, from time to time, to remove, and appoint another in his place. Rates payable to private importer.
6. That such agent shall keep an office in the town of Kingstown, and there shall be paid to him, from the colonial treasury, the sum of 100 £, by quarterly payments, out of any moneys raised for immigration purposes, on the warrant of the Governor, and 10 £. per annum for office rent; provided that such agent shall not be entitled to nor receive any part of 100 £. Agent to keep office in town, and to receive a salary of 100 £.

Appendix, No. 8. of such salary, until the arrival in this Colony of immigrants, to be introduced subject to the provisions of this Act.

Proceedings on arrival of vessel with immigrants.

7. Upon the arrival of any vessel, having immigrants on board, the Immigration Agent, accompanied by the Health Officer of the port, shall forthwith proceed on board of such vessel, and the two shall ascertain, by personal inspection of the vessel and immigrants, whether the provisions of the Imperial Passenger Act, for the time being, so far as they may be applicable, have been complied with or not; and such Immigration Agent and health officer shall personally muster such immigrants, and compare the number and names of such immigrants with the duplicate list, if any, furnished to the master by the agent at the port of embarkation, which he shall require such master to produce and deliver to him, and shall certify upon such duplicate list the name of the vessel, the total number of immigrants then living and on board such vessel, together with the state or condition of such immigrant, his fitness for agricultural labour, and at whose cost and charges he is imported: and in case any immigrant shall have died during the passage, or the number or names of the immigrants shall differ from the number and names of the immigrants stated in such duplicate list, the Immigration Agent shall note such death or difference upon such duplicate list, and thereupon, with the approbation of the Governor, shall grant a licence for the disembarkation and landing of the immigrants from such vessel.

Bounty or passage-money to be paid on certificate.

Schedule (A.)

8. If the Immigration Agent, with the assistance of the Health Officer of the port, on personal inspection of the vessel and immigrants, shall be satisfied that the provisions of the Imperial Passengers Act, for the time being, in so far as they apply, have been fully complied with, he shall transmit to the Governor a certificate, in the form annexed, marked (A.), stating in the same the date of arrival in this Colony of such immigrants, and the place from whence, and the vessel in which such immigrants shall have arrived, and the sum of money payable in respect of such immigrants, and thereupon the Governor shall issue his warrant to the public treasurer to pay the same; provided that bounty or passage money shall be paid only for such immigrants as are landed alive in this Colony.

Agent to provide for unemployed immigrants.

9. If any immigrants shall not, on their arrival, be immediately provided with employment, it shall be the duty of the Immigration Agent, with the approval of the Governor, to provide such immigrants with wholesome and sufficient food and with convenient lodging on shore, until the means of earning their own subsistence can be procured for them; and the Immigration Agent shall deliver to the Governor an account, supported by all necessary vouchers, of the expenditure incurred by him in procuring such food and lodgings, and if such account be approved of by the Governor the same shall be paid.

Registers of immigrants to be kept.

10. The Immigration Agent shall keep separate registers of all immigrants introduced into this Colony; that is to say, firstly, a register of immigrants from any of Her Majesty's dominions in the East Indies, or from the possessions of the East India Company; secondly, a register of indentured Africans; thirdly, a register of Portuguese immigrants; fourthly, a register of Chinese immigrants; and fifthly, a register of all other immigrants, not coming under the denomination of any of the immigrants mentioned in any of the aforesaid classes; and shall, in each of such registers, insert the name of each immigrant thereto belonging, and the number attached to his name, in the list delivered by the master of the ship in which he shall be imported, and shall number each of the immigrants of each class by a particular number, proceeding in regular order with the other numbers, so that no two immigrants of the same class shall bear the same number; and shall also insert in each of such registers, under different heads, the number, name, age, sex, size, birth-place, and any distinguishing mark of every immigrant belonging to such class, and the name, if such can be ascertained, of the parents of such immigrant, the time when, the place from whence, and the name of the party, if any, at whose cost and charges such immigrant may be imported, and the name of the vessel in which such immigrant shall have arrived, together with the cost of the passage of such immigrant, and whether such immigrant will or will not be entitled to a return passage, and of the amount of money which may have been advanced to such immigrant previous to his arrival in the Colony, and which is to be repaid by him out of his wages.

Application by employer requiring immigrants.

11. Any employer, who may be desirous of locating immigrants on his plantation, under the provisions of this Act, shall make application to the Immigration Agent, fully setting forth, in writing, the situation of such plantation, the name of the proprietor thereof, the number and description of the immigrants required, the nature of the labour to be performed, and all other particulars; and no such application shall be received, unless such employer shall also satisfy the Immigration Agent that comfortable and sufficient accommodation, a suitable hospital and medical attendance, according to law, have been or will be duly provided for such immigrants, and the Immigration Agent shall make and keep in his office a true and faithful register of all such applications, numbering them in the order in which they shall be respectively received, such numbering, however, not to give any right of preference to any person or plantation, over any other person or plantation, and every such application shall remain good and valid, until the number of immigrants applied for shall be allotted, or unless such application be withdrawn by the applicant, or be rendered invalid by the death, insolvency, or absence unrepresented of the party making the same.

Contracts made with Indian and African immigrants out of Colony, when binding.

12. Unless by permission of Her Majesty's Government, previously had and obtained, no contract entered into by any employer with any immigrant from any part of India, or from any part of the African continent, or from the island of Madagascar, or from any other island

island adjacent to the coast of the African continent, and inhabited by the negro race, shall be valid, unless the same shall have been made within this Colony. Appendix, No. 3.

13. If any labourer, arriving in this Colony from Madeira, the Azores, the Canaries, or the Cape de Verd Islands, or from any part of Europe, or of the West Indies, or of the United States, or of the British Provinces of North America, or from China or from any port or place from which immigration, on bounty, shall have been permitted by such proclamation, as aforesaid, except from any place mentioned in the 12th clause of this Act, shall, before his arrival, have contracted with any person to perform service in this Colony, such contract shall, when approved and countersigned by the Immigration Agent, and subject to such alterations as the said agent may, with the consent of the parties, have made therein, be valid in this Colony, provided such contract, or the same with such alterations thereto as aforesaid, be not in violation of any of the provisions of this Act; and provided that, except as hereinafter mentioned, no such contract shall be so approved and countersigned, unless it shall have been signed with the names or marks of the contracting parties, and attested by some notary public or British Consul, or by some other person, approved by or acting under authority of Her Majesty's Government, who shall declare that the parties entered into it voluntarily, and with a full understanding of its meaning, nor unless the Immigration Agent shall be satisfied that the immigration has been carried on in accordance with all existing regulations of the Imperial or Colonial Government. What other contracts may be made out of Colony.

14. If the Immigration Agent shall not be satisfied, or shall find the contract not to be so signed and attested as aforesaid, he shall report the same to the Governor, who may, if he shall think fit, notwithstanding such report, direct the Immigration Agent to approve and countersign such contract in manner aforesaid. The Governor may direct Immigration Agent to approve contract.

15. Every immigrant from the Island of Madeira, from any of the Islands of the Azores, or the Cape de Verd or Canary Islands, or from Her Majesty's dominions in the East Indies, or from the possessions of the East India Company, or from China, or from any part of the African continent, from which immigration shall be permitted by Her Majesty's Government, who shall not, before arrival, have entered into contract, to be approved as aforesaid, and every liberated African of the first class shall be indentured, in the form annexed, marked (B.), for a period of three years from the date of his arrival, and every such immigrant, other than one from the African continent, or a liberated African, shall, at the end of the said three years, enter into a second indenture with the same employer for a further term of two years, or shall pay, in commutation thereof, the sum hereinafter enacted; but every such immigrant entering into such second indenture shall be entitled, at the expiration of one year's service under such indenture, to pay, in commutation of the remaining year's service, the sum hereinafter enacted. Form of indenture.

16. Every immigrant, other than one from the African continent, or a liberated African, who shall elect to pay a sum of money, in commutation of service under indenture, shall pay in commutation of two years' service, the sum of 5*l.* sterling, and in commutation of one year's service the sum of 2*l.* 10*s.*; and if any such immigrant shall fail to declare to the Immigration Agent or to the police magistrate, or, if there be no police magistrate, to the presiding justice of the peace of the police district in which such immigrant may be then resident, not less than one, nor more than three months, before the expiration of the indenture under which he may be then serving, whether he desires to be re-indentured, or whether he will pay, in commutation of service under indenture, the sum of money enacted for commutation of service as aforesaid, or, having elected to pay in commutation of such service, shall fail to pay the sum of money appointed for such commutation of service to the Immigration Agent, or to the police magistrate of the district in which such immigrant may be then residing, at least 14 days before the expiration of the indenture under which he may be then serving, such indenture shall thereupon be deemed to be renewed, in like manner as if such immigrant had applied to be re-indentured; and the Immigration Agent, or such magistrate, as the case may be, shall, within eight days after such election, and after such payment in commutation of service as aforesaid by such immigrant, notify the employer of such immigrant of such election and payment respectively, for his guidance in that behalf. Commutation for service.

17. Every immigrant of African descent, not being a British subject, who shall come, for the purpose of settling within this Colony, from any part of the United States or of the British Provinces of North America, and who shall have entered or shall enter into contract as aforesaid, shall, after three years' residence in this Colony, and on taking the oath of allegiance to Her Majesty before the Governor, in the presence of the Secretary of the Colony, be entitled, within this Colony, to all the privileges of a natural-born British subject; and such Secretary shall enter, in a register to be kept in his office, the name, sex, and age of every such immigrant taking the said oath, and the day when, and the vessel in which such immigrant shall have arrived, and the party with whom such immigrant shall have entered into contract, as aforesaid; and such register, or an extract therefrom, certified by such Secretary, shall, upon proof of the identity of such immigrant, be sufficient evidence of the right of such immigrant to the privileges aforesaid. Naturalization of aliens of African descent.

18. All liberated Africans who may be hereafter sent to this Colony at the expense of Her Majesty's Treasury, shall be divided into two classes, the first class of whom shall comprise all those who, upon the inspection of the Immigration Agent and the Health Officer, shall be considered to be of the age of 15 years and upwards, and the second class Classification of liberated Africans.

- Appendix, No. 8. of whom shall comprise all those who, upon such inspection as aforesaid, shall be considered to be under the age of 15 years.
- Contract with liberated Africans of the second class. Schedule (C.)
- Recovery of advances to Chinese immigrants.
- Location of immigrants.
- Schedule (B.) and (C.)
- Bounty to be paid by employer of immigrants.
- Colonial Secretary to have list of allotments and amounts due.
- List of immigrants to be published annually. Schedule (D.)
- Manager of plantation to keep muster roll.
- Schedule (E)
19. All liberated Africans of the second class shall be indentured until they shall have attained the age of 18 years, in the form annexed, marked (C.), or in such other form as may be approved by the Governor.
20. Any person to whom any Chinese immigrants shall be allotted, for whose introduction bounty may be claimed, and who shall, previously to their embarkation, have entered into a contract, engaging them to repay advances made to them by monthly deductions from their wages, shall pay to the party with whom such contract shall have been made the amount of such advances, provided the same shall not exceed 2*l.* 10*s.* for each immigrant, and such first-mentioned person shall be authorised to recover such amount by monthly deductions from the wages earned by such immigrants, in the proportion of not more than 4*s.* 2*d.* per month.
21. On the arrival in this Colony of any immigrants not already under a contract with some individual, the Immigration Agent shall, with the approval of the Governor, proceed to locate them on such plantations as they may prefer, or, if they do not desire to exercise any preference, shall locate them, in such numbers and proportions as circumstances will admit of, on those plantations for which applications for immigrants shall have been previously made; and each employer, before he shall become entitled to the services of such immigrant, shall enter into a contract, according to the form annexed, marked (B.) or (C.), with such immigrant, or with the Immigration Agent, in his behalf, as the nature of the case may require, for such period as any such immigrant is, by any of the preceding sections of this Act, required to be indentured upon arrival, which said contract shall be in triplicate, and shall be prepared by the Immigration Agent, and for preparing which such Immigration Agent shall be entitled to the sum of 1*s.*, and no more, for each such contract in triplicate as aforesaid, to be paid by the party to whom the immigrants are to be allowed; and one copy of such contract shall be delivered to the immigrant, another to the employer, and the third shall be forwarded to the police magistrate for the district, or, if there be no police magistrate, to the presiding justice for the district; provided that it shall not be lawful for the said Immigration Agent, in locating such immigrants as aforesaid, to separate husbands from wives, nor children under 15 years of age, from their parents or natural protectors; and provided, further, that no immigrants shall be allotted to any employer who is in arrear in the payment of any sum due to the Colony for or on account of immigrants previously allotted to such employer.
22. Every employer to whom any immigrant shall be indentured on arrival as aforesaid shall, on or before the execution of such indenture, pay to the Public Treasurer one half the bounty or passage money which shall be due or shall have been paid in respect of such immigrant; and if, at the expiration of the third year of contract of any immigrant, or of indenture of any immigrant, under the form (B.) hereunto annexed, such immigrant, whether such immigrant be imported at the public expense or under private contract, according to the provisions of the fourth clause of this Act, shall not, at the expiration of the third year of his service under contract or indenture as aforesaid, re-indent himself to his said employer for two years further service, but shall pay the sum of money hereinbefore enacted for commutation of such two years' service; then and in such case such employer shall be entitled to demand from the Treasurer of this Colony, and shall receive out of the Immigration Fund, a sum of money equal to one-fifth of the aforesaid bounty or passage-money of such immigrant; and if such immigrant shall re-indent himself for the further period of two years, or continue in the service of his said employer beyond the period of three years, under his said first indenture or contract, but at the expiration of his fourth year of service, or of the first year under the second indenture, shall pay the sum of money hereinbefore enacted, for commutation of his fifth year of service under indenture, then and in such case such employer shall be entitled to demand from the said Treasurer, and shall receive out of the said Immigration Fund, a sum of money equal to one-tenth of the aforesaid bounty or passage-money of such immigrant.
23. The Immigration Agent shall, whenever he allots immigrants, transmit forthwith to the Colonial Secretary a list of the estates to which such immigrants have been allotted, stating the number and description of immigrants allotted to each, and the amounts paid by such estates respectively for such immigrants.
24. The Immigration Agent shall as soon as possible after the first day of January in each and every year, publish in the official Gazette of the Colony a list, in the form annexed, marked (D), or in such other form as may be approved of by the Governor, of all vessels which have arrived in the Colony with immigrants during the year preceding, the number of immigrants so arrived, and the distribution of such immigrants.
25. The manager or person in charge of any plantation or estate, upon which any Chinese, Indian, or African immigrants shall be employed, whether under contract or indenture, or under monthly contracts, as hereinafter provided, shall for each and every month that such immigrants shall continue to be so employed, keep a muster roll of such immigrants, in the form annexed, marked (E.), and it shall be the duty of such manager or person in charge, and he is hereby required to direct all such immigrants to attend each day, at such convenient time or times, and at such convenient place or places on the plantation or estate, as may by him be assigned for that purpose; and such manager or person in charge shall then and there,

there, either personally, or by means of some person deputed by him, call over the names of all such immigrants, and note upon the muster roll, whether they or any of them are present or absent, and such muster roll shall daily be signed by the person by whom the names shall have been so called over, and shall be carefully preserved by the manager or person in charge of the plantation or estate, for the purposes of this Act; and any manager or person in charge of any plantation or estate who shall fail to comply with the provisions of this section, or shall make any false entry in the muster roll to be by him kept, shall be liable on conviction to a penalty not exceeding 4*l.* for every such offence, and in default of payment to imprisonment not exceeding five days.

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26. Every verbal or unwritten contract or agreement for the hire of any immigrant, shall in the absence of proof of any express agreement between the parties to the contrary, be deemed and taken in law to be a contract or agreement for one month, and to be renewable from month to month, and shall be deemed and taken in law to be so renewed by the parties, unless a week's previous notice or warning be given by either party to the other of his or her intention not to renew the same, and the wages for such service shall be payable weekly; and any employer shall be entitled to discharge any immigrant hired under the provisions of this section, without previous notice, provided such immigrant be instantly paid his wages for the time he has served, and also for 15 days from the time of such discharge; provided that any such verbal or unwritten contract or agreement may at any time be determined by the misconduct of either party, in their relative capacity of employer and servant, which may be proved by either party against the other.

Form of verbal contract.

27. If any employer shall terminate any contract or agreement, made with any immigrant under the provisions of the preceding section, except with the consent of such immigrant, or by giving notice or paying wages, or for misconduct, as therein provided, such employer shall forfeit and pay to the use of the immigrant a sum equal to one month's wages, according to the rate of wages which may have been fixed by and between the parties, or if the rate of wages shall not have been so fixed, then such sum as the presiding magistrate or justices may consider fair and reasonable as and for a month's wages, in addition to the wages due to the immigrant at the time of the termination of such contract.

Penalty on breach of verbal contract by employer.

28. On any complaint made by any employer against any immigrant, for refusing or willfully neglecting to perform any verbal or unwritten contract, such immigrant shall be at liberty to show by evidence in answer to such complaint, that he terminated his service or contract in consequence of ill usage by his employer, or for some other good and sufficient cause, to be judged of by the presiding magistrate or justices.

Immigrant may prove ill usage in defence.

29. If any employer shall ill use any immigrant, he shall be liable on conviction to a penalty not exceeding 10*l.*

Penalty on ill usage.

30. Upon any complaint made by any employer or immigrant, the magistrate or justices by whom such complaint shall be heard, may, in addition to any other order made on such complaint, award to such immigrant the whole or such proportion of the wages appearing due to him, as such justice or justices shall think reasonable, or shall authorise the employer to retain the whole or any specified portion of such wages, and may discharge such employer or immigrant from his contract or service, and shall in such case give to such employer or immigrant as the case may require, a certificate of such discharge and of such award, without any fee or consideration.

Justice may discharge from contract, and decide in any case as to wages due, in addition to any other order on complaint made.

31. If it shall be made to appear to the Governor that any employer of any indentured immigrant, or other person acting under his authority, shall have been convicted of gross or repeated ill usage or ill treatment of any such immigrant, the Governor may direct the immigrant so ill used or ill treated, and also if he shall so think fit, every other immigrant indentured to such employer, to be released and discharged from all further service to such employer, and thereupon such immigrant or immigrants shall be wholly discharged from all further service to such employer; and the Governor shall direct the Immigration Agent to indenture immigrants discharged under the provisions of this or of the preceding section, to such other employer as to him may seem fit: Provided always, that the term of service for which any such immigrant shall be indentured, by any such new indenture, shall not, together with the time of his or her past service, exceed the period of service for which such immigrant was previously bound.

Governor may discharge immigrant from service, on account of ill usage by employer.

32. Any immigrant who without reasonable cause shall neglect or refuse to attend at the daily call of the muster-roll, or at and during the time and hours, or at the place where and when he shall have contracted or agreed to attend, in commencing or carrying on any work, during such hours as it shall be usual so to attend, or who without reasonable cause shall leave unfinished or refuse to finish any work contracted or agreed to be done, or who shall be guilty of any drunkenness, wilful disobedience of orders, insolence, or neglect of duty, or other misconduct in the service of his employer, or who shall quit the service of such employer without leave or reasonable cause, before the end of the period stated in his indenture, or before the end of the period for which he shall have verbally contracted or agreed to serve, as the case may be, he shall on conviction thereof, forfeit the whole or any part of any wages then due, and not exceeding the wages of one week, and be punished by fine or imprisonment, with or without hard labour, at the discretion of the presiding magistrates or justices, such fine not to exceed 4*l.*, and such imprisonment not to exceed 30 days.

Immigrant absents himself, refusing to work, or guilty of misconduct.

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On complaint of
absence, muster
roll to be produced.

33. In the case of any complaint made by any employer against any Chinese, Indian, or African immigrant, for absentsing himself from his service or employment, it shall be lawful for the presiding magistrate or justices, and he and they is and are hereby required, to demand the production of the muster-roll of the plantation or estate, for the month during which such absence shall have taken place, and if such muster-roll shall not be produced, or if it shall appear on inspection thereof, and shall be proved in evidence that the names of such immigrants have not been duly called over, as hereinbefore enacted, then and in any such case such complaint shall be dismissed.

Governor in
Council may make
rules for general
treatment of immi-
grants.

34. It shall be lawful for the Governor in Council, from time to time, to make and promulgate rules and orders respecting the lodging, medicine, medical attendance, care, food, and clothing, and for the general treatment of all immigrants, and the regulations, so made, shall be deemed part of the contract of the employer and the immigrant.

Hours of labour.

35. Every indentured immigrant, in the absence of any express agreement to the contrary, and except in case of illness, shall be bound to work upon or in the service of the plantation mentioned in his indenture for nine hours of each day, Sundays, Good Friday, New Year's-day, and Christmas-day only excepted: Provided always, That during his absence, on account of illness, every such immigrant shall, in the absence of any express agreement to the contrary, receive, instead of wages, such allowances as the state of his health may require.

Employer failing
to provide employ-
ment.

36. If it shall be established before any two justices of the peace, on complaint preferred by any indentured immigrant, that such immigrant is not provided by his employer with sufficient work to enable him to earn a just amount of wages, in terms of his contract, such justices shall declare and adjudge the contract or indenture of such immigrant to be thereby cancelled; and thereupon it shall be lawful for the Governor to cause such immigrant to be indentured to some other employer, who shall be required to pay or to give promissory notes, in manner and form provided by section 24 of this Act, for such sums as may be the due proportion of the bounty or passage money, for the unexpired period of the term of service transferred to him, the original employer and his estate remaining liable, however, for such sum or sums as may be due, for the expired term or proportion of the whole period of service, as expressed in the original contract or indenture.

Abatement of wages
for misconduct.

37. Upon any complaint by any immigrant for non-payment of wages, or damages for breach of contract, or misconduct by his employer, it shall be lawful for the presiding magistrate or justices to make a proportional abatement out of any sum to be awarded as the wages or damages due to such immigrant, for such days or time as he shall be proved to have been, without the consent of his employer, absent from or neglecting his service or work, and also for the value of any damage done to the property of his employer, by or through the misconduct, or negligence, or carelessness of such immigrant.

Immigrant endan-
gering or destroying
property.

38. If any such immigrant as aforesaid shall, by negligence or other improper conduct, lose, throw away, endanger, or damage the property of his employer, or shall endanger such property by a careless or improper use of fire, or shall cruelly ill use any cattle or other live stock belonging to his employer, or entrusted to his care, or by negligence shall suffer or occasion to be cruelly ill used any such cattle or live stock, every such offender, on conviction thereof, shall be punished by fine or imprisonment, with or without hard labour, such fine not to exceed 4 £, and such imprisonment not to exceed 30 days.

Limitation of
period for prefer-
ring complaints.

39. No complaint by any employer against any immigrant, or by any immigrant against any employer, made under any of the twelve preceding sections of this Act, shall be entertained unless the same shall be preferred within 30 days after the occurrence of the subject matter of such complaint; and, upon the hearing of any such complaint, no abatement or deduction shall be made from the amount determined to be due to either party, by reason of any misconduct, of which such party may have been guilty, at any time exceeding 30 days before the institution of such complaint.

Issue of certificate
of industrial resi-
dence.

Schedule (F.)

Or of exemption
from labour.

Register of certifi-
cates.

40. Every immigrant, of whatever description, who shall have completed the term of service, under contract or indenture, hereinbefore required of him respectively, or shall have paid the sums hereinbefore required to be paid in commutation of such service, shall be entitled to demand and receive from the Immigration Agent, free of all charge, a certificate of industrial residence, to be written or printed according to the form in the Schedule (F.) to this Act annexed, and shall and thereupon be released from all further obligation to perform service, under contract or indenture, and such certificate shall be delivered, free of cost, to such immigrant by the said Immigration Agent at the proper time, if he can be found, whether application shall be made for the same or not; provided that it shall be lawful for the Governor, on being satisfied that any immigrant is, whether from sickness or any other cause, permanently disabled and unfit to perform any labour, to authorise the Immigration Agent to grant a certificate of exemption from labour, and provided that notice shall be published by the Immigration Agent for the space of one month before the issue of any certificate under this section of the intention to issue the same.

41. The Immigration Agent shall keep a register of all certificates issued under the provisions of the preceding section, which register shall contain the description, sex, age, and any other distinguishing mark, as clearly as the same can be set forth, of every immigrant to whom any such certificate may be granted; and if, at any time, any question shall arise, whether before a court of law or elsewhere, respecting any such immigrant, and he shall be

unable

unable to produce such certificate, an extract from the said register, under the hand of the said Immigration Agent, accompanied by a certificate under his hand of the identity of such immigrant, shall be deemed good and sufficient evidence; and if at any time any immigrant shall prove to the satisfaction of the said Immigration Agent that such certificate has been lost or destroyed, he shall be entitled to receive a duplicate of the same on payment of the sum of 2 s. for such duplicate.

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Extract to be evidence; issue of duplicate.

42. Every employer of any immigrant under indenture shall, within 24 hours from the time at which any such immigrant shall have deserted from such plantation, report such desertion at the nearest police station, stating in such report the number and name by which such immigrant is described in his indenture, with the date thereof, and any other information likely to facilitate the apprehension of such deserter; and so soon as any report of a desertion is delivered to the officer in charge of such police station he shall copy the same, and send on such report to the nearest police station in each direction, and the police officers respectively in charge of such station shall, in like manner, copy and send on such report from station to station, until it reaches the inspector of police, and such inspector shall, at the end of each quarter, make up and transmit to the Governor a return, in the form marked (G.) of all desertions so reported, and of the result up to that date; and in case any employer shall fail to comply with the provisions of this section, he shall forfeit and pay a sum of not less than 20 s. nor more than 40 s.

Employer to report desertion of immigrant forthwith.

Publication of report.

Schedule (G.)

43. Every person who shall harbour, conceal, or employ any immigrant, being at the time under a written contract to labour for some other employer, or who shall remove, or entice, or solicit away from his employer any immigrant, shall, for every such offence, on conviction thereof, forfeit and pay a penalty not exceeding 10 l., and shall further pay to the employer to whom such immigrant shall be indentured the sum of 8 s. for each day during which such immigrant shall be proved to have been so harboured or employed, and if the employer or person in charge of any such immigrant shall state, upon oath, before a justice of the peace that he has reasonable cause to suspect that such immigrant is harboured, concealed, or employed on the premises of any person, such justice of the peace may grant a warrant to search for such immigrant, and bring him or her, and the person by whom such immigrant may be harboured, concealed, or employed, before him, to be dealt with as provided by this Act: Provided always, that in every case in which any dispute or difference shall arise, as to whether any person who shall have harboured, concealed, or employed any immigrant, being at the time under a written contract to labour, or who shall have removed or enticed away, or shall have solicited or enticed any such immigrant to remove from the employment or service of his or her employer, had knowledge of any such immigrant being at the time under such contract, the proof of the absence or want of knowledge of every such person shall be on such person, and the proof of the knowledge of such person shall not be on the party aggrieved, complaining, or informing.

Penalty on harbouring or enticing away immigrant under indenture.

44. It shall be lawful for the employer of any Chinese, Indian, or African immigrant, under a written contract to labour, for the servant of such employer, or for any member of the police force or rural constable to apprehend without warrant such immigrant who, on any day on which he shall be bound to labour, shall be found at a distance of more than two miles from the estate on which he shall be engaged to labour, without a ticket of leave signed by such employer, and to cause such immigrant to be taken back to such estate, and that it shall be lawful for any member of the police force or constable, if he shall see reasonable cause for so doing, to call upon any such immigrant to produce to him his certificate of industrial residence, or ticket of leave, and if such immigrant shall be unable or shall refuse so to do, then, without any unnecessary delay, to take such immigrant before the police magistrate or any two justices, to be dealt with according to law; and that if affidavit shall be made before any justice, showing reasonable ground to suppose that any immigrant is harboured, or concealed, or employed on the premises of any person, such justice shall grant a warrant to search for such immigrant, to bring him before him to be dealt with according to law.

Apprehension of immigrant wandering from estate.

45. Every employer of immigrants under a written contract to labour, shall on or before the 10th day of January and 10th day of July in each and every year, make out and transmit to the Immigration Agent a return, in writing, of the number of immigrants who were in his service under written contract on the last day of the preceding six months, which return shall be made out in the manner and form specified in the schedule hereto annexed marked (H.), and shall be described as the return of the person with whom such immigrant shall have been under a written contract or otherwise, and shall contain a specification of the total number of such immigrants, and also of all deductions from the original number of immigrants under written contracts as aforesaid, which shall have taken place within the last preceding six months, by death or desertion, stating the names, numbers, and vessels of import of those who may have died or deserted, and also of those who may have returned to the performance of their contract after their desertion, giving the like description; and also of the births of any children among such immigrants, specifying the ages and sexes of such children, and the names and numbers of their parents; and also a declaration that the contents of such return are in all respects true and correct; and any person who shall neglect to transmit within 14 days after the time specified, any such return as aforesaid, shall pay a sum of 40 s., and a like sum for each and every subsequent month during which such neglect shall continue; and any person

Half-yearly returns of immigrants by employers.

Schedule (H.)

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making or signing any such return or declaration, knowing the same to be false, shall be liable to be punished, as by law provided in the case of wilful and corrupt perjury.

Return to be made of immigrant imprisoned.

46. Whenever any Chinese, Indian, or African immigrant under indenture, shall be sentenced by any court of criminal jurisdiction, or by any justice of the peace, under any Act or law in force, to any term of imprisonment, it shall be the duty of such court of criminal jurisdiction, or of such justice, as the case may be, within the period of one calendar month from the date of such sentence, to cause to be delivered to the Immigration Agent a return setting forth, as accurately as may be, the name of such immigrant, the name of the estate to which he is indentured, the offence of which he shall have been convicted, and the term of imprisonment to which he shall have been sentenced.

Entry in register of births, deaths, and desertions.

47. The Immigration Agent shall enter in the proper place in the register required by the 10th section of this Act, all such births and deaths as shall be reported to him, under the provisions of section 45, or as shall in any other manner be brought to his knowledge; and shall keep a separate book in which shall be entered a full description of every immigrant reported to have deserted, or to have been imprisoned, and the period during which he shall in consequence have been absent from the performance of his contract, and if it shall appear by such separate book that any such immigrant shall have been, whether at one time or upon different occasions, absent from the performance of his contract for one month or more, for each year that he shall have been indentured, it shall be lawful for the said Immigration Agent, and he is hereby required to withhold the certificates by the 40th and 41st sections of this Act required to be given, until such immigrant shall have completed the term of industrial residence required by law.

Suspension of issue of certificate.

Provision of accommodation hospital.

48. Every estate on which such immigrants, whether indentured or not indentured, are located, shall be provided with comfortable and sufficient dwellings, and with a proper hospital, and hospital furniture, medicine, and nurses, and shall have a regularly licensed medical practitioner to attend the sick, and in default thereof, the proprietor of such estate shall be liable to a penalty of 4 *l.*, and a like sum for each and every 14 days during which such default shall continue, and that it shall be lawful for the Governor, if he shall think fit so to do, in the case of any proprietor convicted more than once of a breach of the provisions of this section, within a period of three months, to direct all such immigrants to be released and discharged from all further service to such employer, and thereupon such immigrants shall be wholly discharged from such service, and the Governor may direct such immigrants to be indentured to any other employer, whom he may select, and who may be willing to receive the same.

Instruction of Africans.

49. All indentured Africans, of the second class, shall be allowed one afternoon in each week, to be appointed by the Governor, for the purpose of receiving education and religious instruction; and any manager or other person in charge of a plantation, preventing the attendance of any such African at any school on such afternoon, as aforesaid, or obstructing the minister of the parish, or any minister of the Christian religion, or any licensed schoolmaster, duly authorised thereto by the Governor, in visiting and instructing any such African, or neglecting or refusing to provide a fit and proper place, if required so to do by the Immigration Agent, until the appointment of an inspector of schools, and after such appointment by such inspector, for the communication of such instruction, shall forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding 20 *s.* for each such offence, to be recovered upon the complaint of the Immigration Agent or Inspector of Schools, or any person authorised by him in writing: Provided always, that any such African, who shall absent himself from work, on such afternoon, as aforesaid, and shall not attend the school provided for him or receive instruction therein, shall be liable to be punished by fine or imprisonment, in manner and form provided by section 32 of this Act.

Inspection of plantation by Immigration Agent.

50. It shall be lawful for the Immigration Agent to enter into and upon any plantation where any immigrant may be employed, and to inspect the state and condition of such immigrant, and inquire into any complaint which the employer may have against any such immigrant, or any such immigrant may have against his employer.

Penalty on obstruction of Immigration Agent.

51. Every person who shall wilfully do any act, whereby the Immigration Agent may be prevented or obstructed in the performance of his duty under this Act, shall on conviction thereof, before any two or more justices of the peace, forfeit and pay such sum, not exceeding 10 *l.* for every such offence, as to the convicting justices shall seem fit.

Issue of passports to immigrants.

52. Every immigrant, who shall have acquired a right to certificate of industrial residence, shall and may demand and receive from the Immigration Agent a passport, which shall be delivered to him, free of all charge whatsoever, and such immigrant shall thereupon be at liberty to depart from this Colony, on paying the expense of his own passage: Provided always, that nothing in this section contained, shall be deemed or taken to imply any obligation upon this Colony to provide a passage for any such immigrant, at any time before the expiration of the term for which he shall have consented to reside therein.

Right of coolies to back passage.

53. Every immigrant from Her Majesty's dominions in the East Indies, or from the possessions of the East India Company, who shall arrive in this Colony, and who shall have acquired a certificate of industrial residence, in manner provided by the 40th clause of this Act, shall be entitled, at the expiration of 10 years, from the time of such arrival, and upon payment to the Immigration Agent of the sum of 7 *l.* 5 *s.* 10 *d.*, to be provided with a back passage,

passage, to the port from which he sailed, at the expense of this Colony: Provided that no such payment shall be required of any such immigrant, who shall enter into indentures of service for the last five years of the period of his engagement, each contract being of not less than one year's duration, or who shall pay to the Immigration Agent the sum of 2*l.* 10*s.* for each such year, during which he has not been under contract; and every indenture or contract, which may be made under the provisions of this clause, shall be made in manner provided by the 21st clause of the said Act; and every employer, with whom any such immigrant shall enter into such indenture or contract, shall, at the time of the execution of the same, in addition to the fee by the said clause imposed for the preparation thereof, pay to the Immigration Agent a sum calculated at the rate of one-tenth of the bounty or passage money paid for the introduction of such immigrant, for every year of the period stated in such indenture or contract, provided also that no such immigrant shall be entitled to such back passage, unless claimed within 18 months from the period when he shall have become entitled to the same.

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54. There shall be paid to every Indian immigrant, entitled to and who shall claim back passage, 25*s.* for every half-year which may intervene between his application for and the actual offer of or opportunity for such back passage, and so in proportion for any less period than six calendar months during which any such Indian immigrant, so entitled to and having claimed a return passage, may be detained in this Colony for want of opportunity for such back passage.

Compensation to Indian when entitled to back passage.

55. In order to secure to immigrants from the East Indies the means of communication in their own language there shall, when practicable, be embarked from the port of departure in India one person capable of acting and engaged to act as interpreter for every 100 such immigrants, which person, or some other duly qualified person, shall be employed so to act in this Colony at a reasonable salary, to be paid, on the warrant of the Governor in Council, out of the funds provided for immigration purposes.

Employment of interpreters.

56. It shall be lawful for the Governor in Council, from time to time, to make regulations for securing the savings and accumulations of property belonging to Indian immigrants, who may die in this colony leaving property, for the benefit of the relatives of such deceased immigrants, and for the realisation of such property, and the transmission thereof to the relatives in India of such deceased immigrants.

Governor in Council may make regulations for securing and transmitting property of deceased immigrants.

57. It shall be lawful for the Governor in Council, from time to time, to make regulations for allowing to any Indian labourers such holidays, or days to be observed as religious festivals, as to him shall seem meet.

Governor in Council may allow certain holidays.

58. The Governor may order a back passage to be provided, at the expense of the Colony, for any immigrant who may have become permanently unfit for labour, anything hereinbefore contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

Free passage for invalids.

59. In order to facilitate the return of Indian immigrants who shall be entitled to back passage, wholly or in part at the expense of this Colony, it shall be lawful for the Governor, when there shall not be any convenient opportunity of providing such back passage from this Colony direct to the port from which such immigrant shall have sailed, to arrange with the Governor of any neighbouring Colony, from which there may be a convenient opportunity for the return of such immigrant by way of such Colony to such port, wholly or in part at the expense of this Colony, according to the terms in which the immigrant may be entitled to such back passage.

Governor may arrange for return passage of Indian immigrant, by way of neighbouring colony.

60. It shall not be lawful for any immigrant, who shall have been introduced into this Colony at the public expense, to depart from the Colony without having first obtained a passport, in manner hereinbefore provided; and every master or other person in charge of any vessel, who shall receive or harbour on board of such vessel, with the intention of carrying out of this Colony any such immigrant who shall not have obtained such passport, shall, on conviction thereof, forfeit and pay a sum of 20*l.* for each and every such immigrant whom he shall have so received or harboured, with such intention as aforesaid; and every such penalty shall and may be sued for and recovered, for and on behalf of Her Majesty, before the police magistrate or any two justices of the peace from such master or other person being in command of any such vessel, or from the owner of such vessel.

Penalty on master of vessel receiving immigrant without passport.

61. Upon the departure of any vessel from this Colony, having Indian immigrants on board, returning to the port from whence they came, the immigration agent, accompanied by the Health Officer, shall proceed on board of such vessel, and, with the assistance of such Health Officer, shall ascertain, by personal inspection of the vessel and immigrants, whether the vessel is fit and suitable, in all respects, for the purpose, and whether all the arrangements made for the passage and treatment of the immigrants are in due conformity with law, and especially with the laws passed by the Right Honourable the Governor General of India and Council for regulating the emigration of the native inhabitants of the territories under the government of the East India Company to the West Indies; and such Immigration Agent shall personally muster such immigrants, and ascertain whether they and each of them be the parties lawfully entitled to back passage, and shall certify upon the list, to be by him furnished to the master of such vessel, the total number of immigrants embarked, together with the state and condition of such immigrants, and that they are provided with clothing suitable for the voyage.

Inspection of vessel sailing with immigrants.

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Payment of health officer.

62. Such health officer shall be allowed, as his remuneration for services performed under this Act, the sum of 6*d* for every immigrant on board of any such vessel arriving, and the same sum for every immigrant departing, at the expense of the Colony.

Immigrant using false documents.

63. If any immigrant shall fraudulently obtain, transfer, use, or attempt to use any false, forged, or counterfeit certificate of industrial residence, passport, ticket-of-leave, or other document referred to in this Act, or shall in any manner alter or erase any part of such document, such immigrant shall be subject, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding 4*l*., or to imprisonment, at hard labour, not exceeding 30 days.

Part of all fines, not exceeding one-half, may be paid to the informer.

64. If any person shall be sentenced to imprisonment for any offence against this Act, or shall fail to pay any fine imposed upon him for such offence, he shall be committed to the common gaol, there to remain in conformity with his sentence; and any part, not exceeding one-half of every fine imposed by this Act, may, in the discretion of the presiding magistrate or justices, be paid to the informer, and in any case where the party convicted shall not pay such fine it shall be lawful for the Governor to reward such informer, provided that such reward to be so paid by the Governor shall in no case exceed 4*s*.

Payment of salaries.

65. All salaries of officers granted, and all expenses incurred in virtue of this Act, shall be paid out of such funds as are raised for the purposes of immigration; and all monies payable by any person in virtue of any of the provisions of this Act, and which shall not be declared to be payable to any particular officer or persons, shall be payable, for the use of Her Majesty, to the public treasurer or to the magistrates or justices awarding the payment of any such money; and all sums received by any such magistrate or justices, or any other person, and not payable over to any particular person, shall be paid over to the public treasurer under this Act, and shall be applied to immigration purposes, and the public treasurer shall render to the Committee of Public Accounts, quarterly, a statement of all receipts and payments for immigration purposes.

Adjudication of complaints under this Act.

66. All complaints, differences, and disputes, which shall arise between employer and immigrant, respecting any matter or thing treated of in this Act, shall and may be heard and determined, except where otherwise specially provided, by the police magistrate or any two justices of the peace, and all penalties, forfeitures, and sums of money imposed or ordered to be paid by this Act, may, unless otherwise specially directed, be recovered, on summary conviction, before such magistrate or justices, and it shall be lawful for the police magistrate, sitting alone, to do any act authorised by this Act to be done by two or more justices of the peace.

Recovery of penalties.

Mode of recovery of penalties.

67. In every case of summary conviction under this Act, where the sum forfeited or ordered to be paid shall not be paid immediately after the conviction, or within such period not exceeding ten days after conviction, as the presiding magistrates or justices shall, at the time of conviction, appoint, it shall be lawful for the convicting magistrate or justices, where the amount of the sum forfeited or ordered to be paid shall not exceed 10*l*., by warrant, under his hand and seal, or their hands and seals, to authorise and require any constable to levy the same, together with the costs and charges attending such levy, by distress and sale of the goods and chattels of the person convicted, and, in default of such distress, it shall and may be lawful for such magistrate or justices to commit such person, so convicted, to the common gaol, there to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding three calendar months, unless where a less term is hereby specially provided, or until payment of such sums so forfeited or ordered to be paid; and where the amount of the sum forfeited or ordered to be paid shall exceed 10*l*., by warrant under his hand and seal, or their hands and seals, to authorise and require the provost marshal to levy the same, together with the costs and charges attending such levy, upon the goods and chattels, lands, tenements, and hereditaments of the person so convicted, in the same manner, and under the same regulations and restrictions, as he would levy, under execution, any debt or damages recovered in the Supreme Court of Judicature, and in default of goods and chattels, lands, tenements, and hereditaments of the person so convicted, to take the body of such person so convicted, and him to imprison in the common gaol, for any term not exceeding six calendar months, unless when a less term is hereby specially provided, or until payment of such sum so forfeited or ordered to be paid.

Interpretation of terms.

68. Throughout this Act, the words and expressions hereinafter mentioned, shall have and bear the following meanings, that is to say, the words "Her Majesty," shall mean Her Majesty, her heirs and successors; the term Immigration Agent, shall not only mean the Immigration Agent, but also any sub-agent appointed by the Governor, to act in any particular place, or on any particular occasion, in the place and stead of the Immigration Agent; the word "immigrant" shall include all immigrants, already introduced or who may hereafter be introduced into this Colony, at the expense of the British Treasury, or at the expense of this Colony, or for whose introduction, although the same may be under private contract, the Colony may hereafter pay bounty; the word "writing," shall also mean printing; the word "servant" shall mean any person employed and duly authorised by the proprietor of any plantation to which immigrants shall be allotted; the word "contract," and the words "written contract," shall mean also any indenture or agreement written or printed, or partly written and partly printed; the word "indenture" shall also mean contract; the word "estate" shall also mean plantation: the word "plantation" shall include any sugar, cocoa, coffee, arrowroot plantation, rice or cotton estate, or any farm or establishment

ment on which any immigrant may be employed: the word "employer" shall include the proprietor or manager or other person having the direction of or the chief authority upon any such estate or plantation, or of or upon any farm or establishment on which any immigrant shall be employed: every word importing the singular number only, shall extend and be applied to several persons or things, as well as to one person or thing: every word importing the plural number, shall extend and be applied to one person, matter, or thing, as well as to several persons, matters, or things: every word importing the masculine gender only, shall extend and be applied to a female as well as to a male: unless, in any of the cases aforesaid, it be otherwise specially provided, or there be something in the subject or context repugnant to such construction.

Appendix, No. 8.

69. It shall be lawful for the Governor in Council, from time to time, to make rules for regulating the proportion and number of each sex of any immigrants to be introduced into this Colony under the provisions of this Act.

Governor in Council to make rules for regulating proportion of sexes.

70. That the Acts following be repealed: an Act passed 16th November 1838, intituled, an Act to render null and void all contracts for the performance in this Colony of any service or labour in agriculture, or in or about the manufacture of colonial produce which may be entered into in any of the other of Her Majesty's possessions in the West Indies.

Repeals Acts therein mentioned.

An Act passed the 29th day of January, 1847, intituled, an Act for promoting and encouraging the immigration of labourers into the Colony of St. Vincent, and for regulating contracts to be entered into with them.

An Act passed the 29th day of March 1849, intituled, an Act to regulate and make provision for the treatment of liberated African immigrants.

An Act passed the 19th day of May 1849, intituled, an Act to alter and amend an Act, intituled, an Act to regulate and make provision for the treatment of liberated African immigrants.

An Act passed the 27th day of June 1851, intituled, an Act further to alter and amend an Act, intituled, an Act to regulate and make provision for the treatment of liberated African immigrants.

(A.)—SECTION 8.

Immigration Agent's Certificate of Arrival.

I, THE undersigned, do hereby certify that the ship _____ Master arrived at this port from _____ on the _____ of _____, bringing immigrants above 14 years of age, between the ages of 14 and 6 years, and _____ under 6 years of age; that I, assisted by the Health Officer of the port, have personally inspected the said vessel and immigrants, and find that the provisions of the Imperial Passengers Act for the time being, as far as the same are applicable, have been duly complied with; and finally that the amount payable in respect of such immigrant is _____.

Dated at _____ day of _____ 18 _____.

A. B., Immigration Agent.

(B.)—SECTIONS 15, 21, and 22.

ST. VINCENT.

BE it remembered, That on this _____ day of _____ in the year of our Lord 185 , A. B., of _____ and C. D., of _____ appeared before me E. F., Immigration Agent of the Colony of St. Vincent, and in my presence signed their names or marks (as the case may be) to the following contract of service:—The said A. B. agrees to hire the services of the said C. D., and the said C. D. agrees to render to the said A. B., his heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns, services, in the capacity of a _____ for the term of _____ years, commencing on the _____ day of _____ in the year 18 _____, and terminating on the _____ day of _____ in the year 18 _____. And it is further agreed between the said parties that the said C. D. shall be employed by the said A. B., his heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns, on plantation _____. And it is further agreed that the said A. B., his heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns, shall pay to the said C. D., as such labourer aforesaid, the same rate of wages as is paid to the labourer not under indenture or contract, working on said estate, and that such wages shall be paid monthly. And it is further agreed that in the event of the said plantation being sold, the said C. D. shall serve the purchaser thereof, his heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns, and shall be paid wages by the said purchaser, his heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns, in conformity with this contract.

A. B.,
C. D.

The preceding contract was signed by the above-named parties in my presence on the _____ day and year above written voluntarily, the same being, as far as I am able to judge, fully understood by them respectively.

E. F., Immigration Agent.

(C.)—SECTIONS 19 and 23.

ST. VINCENT.

THIS Indenture, made the _____ day of _____ in the _____ year of our Lord 18____, between *A. B.*, Immigration Agent in the Colony of St. Vincent, for and on behalf of *C. D.*, a liberated (male or female) African of the age of _____ years, and numbered _____ recently sent to this Colony, under the authority of Her Majesty's Government, for the purpose of being located and established herein, of the one part, and *E. F.*, of _____ in this Colony, of the other part, witnesseth that, in virtue of the Act, in such case made and provided, and in consideration of the covenants, promises, and agreements, on the part and behalf of the said *E. F.*, hereinafter contained, he the said *A. B.*, as such Immigration Agent, has indented, placed, and bound, and by these presents doth indent, place, and bind the said *C. D.*, the African indented, to and with *E. F.*, of _____, to serve for the term of _____ years, to be computed from the day of the date of these presents, and doth hereby, for and on behalf of the said *C. D.*, to and with the said *E. F.*, covenant, promise, and agree, that the said *C. D.* shall and will, during all and every part of the said term of _____ years, truly and faithfully serve the said *E. F.* as a labourer on plantation _____; and the said *E. F.* doth hereby, covenant, promise, and agree, to and with the said *A. B.*, for and on behalf of the said *C. D.*, that he, the said *E. F.*, shall and will, until the said *C. D.* shall have attained the age of 15 years, find, and provide for, and allow to the said *C. D.* suitable and sufficient diet, clothing, tools, or implements of work, lodging, and medical attendance, and such privileges, necessities, and money wages as may, from time to time, be ordered by the Governor in Council, or be enacted touching or concerning Africans, under the age of 15 years, indented in this Colony; and shall also allow to the said *C. D.* during the continuation of these presents, for education and religious instruction, such one afternoon in every week as shall be appointed or assigned by the Governor of the Colony for the time being.

In witness whereof he the said *A. B.*, the Immigration Agent, for and on behalf of the said *C. D.*, and he the said *E. F.*, have hereunto set their hands, the day and year first above written.

(D.)—SECTION 26.

ANNUAL List of Arrivals and Allotments of Immigrants.

No. of Arrival.	Name of Vessel.	No. of Immigrants.	From what Place.	ADULTS.			Children between Six and Fourteen Years.			Children under Six Years.			Number of Immigrants allotted, including Children.		To what Plantation allotted.	Remarks.
				M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.		

Dated at _____ this _____ day of _____ 18____
A. B., Immigration Agent.

N.B.—If any discrepancy occurs between the number of arrivals and those allotted, explain it in the column for remarks.

(E.)—SECTION 25.

Muster Roll of Plantation _____ for the month of _____

Description of Immigrants.	Name.	1st	2d	3d	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th	19th	20th	21st	22d	23d	24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th	31st
Portuguese -																																
Coolie -																																
Chinese -																																
African -																																

J. F., Manager, or Overseer.

(F.)—SECTION 40.

No.

This is to certify that the _____ immigrant hereinunder described has completed his term of service (or has paid the amount required in commutation of his service) under the provisions of the Act intituled "an Act to alter the Law of Contracts with regard to Immigrants, and for the Encouragement of Immigration, and for the general Regulation of Immigrants."

Name.	Sex.	Description.	Remarks.
			(signed) A. B.

(G.)—SECTION 42.

QUARTERLY RETURN of Desertions from the District.

No.	Description of Immigrant.	Name.	Sex.	Date of Indenture.	Plantation from which Deserted.	Date of Desertion.	Date of Return to Service.

(H.)—SECTION 45.

HALF-YEARLY Return of the entire Number of Immigrants located on Plantation
in the Parish of *St. Vincent.*

	Madras Coolies.		Calcutta Coolies.		Africans.		Portuguese.		Chinese.		TOTAL.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Number remaining at last return												
Number born, received, or return from desertion since last return												
TOTAL - -												
Number died, departed, or deserted since last return - -												
Total on the Estate - - -												

SPECIFICATION of Birth.

Name of Infant.	Sex.	Name of Father.	Name of Mother.	Father's Number.	Father's Ship of Import.	Father's Country.

SPECIFICATION of Deserters.

Name of Deserter.	Sex.	Country.	No.	Ship of Import.	Date of Desertion.

SPECIFICATION of Deaths.

Name of Deceased.	Sex.	Country.	No.	Ship of Import.	Date of Death.	Cause of Death.

SPECIFICATION of Immigrants returning after Desertion.

Name of Immigrants.	Sex.	Country.	No.	Ship of Import.	Date of Return.	Date of Desertion.

I, _____ of plantation _____ do solemnly and sincerely declare that the above is a true and correct return of the immigrants on plantation _____ on the _____ day of _____ 18____, as required by the 45th clause of the Act intituled "an Act to alter the Law of Contracts with regard to Immigrants, and for the Encouragement of Immigration, and for the General Regulation of Immigrants."
(signature)

Appendix, No. 9.

ST. VINCENT.
No. 703.

(L.s.)

James Walker.

AN ACT for laying an Additional Tax on Produce to provide a Fund for Immigration Purposes.

Preamble.

WHEREAS it is expedient to encourage and promote the immigration of labourers into this Government, and in order to provide a fund for that purpose it is deemed advisable to increase the tax on exported produce: Be it enacted by the Governor, Council, and Assembly of the Government of the Island of St. Vincent and its dependencies, that on and from the day after the day of the publication of this Act, and during the continuance in force of the same, there shall be raised, levied, collected, and paid to Her Majesty the Queen, Her heirs and successors, for the public uses of this Government, subject to such special appropriation thereof as hereinafter contained, and in addition to the duty imposed by the "Export Tax Act, 1856," a duty on the produce hereinafter mentioned and enumerated, being the growth and manufacture of this Colony, which shall be exported from this Government, at and after the rates following; that is to say,—

Additional duty levied on produce exported.

	s.	d.
On every hogshead of sugar, the produce of this Government, of 38 inch truss and upwards - - - - -	2	-
On every hogshead of sugar as aforesaid, under 38 inch truss, and not less than 24 inch truss - - - - -	1	9
On every hogshead or cask of sugar under 34 inches, and exceeding 672 lbs. gross weight - - - - -	1	4
On every cask of sugar not exceeding 672 lbs. in gross weight, nor less than 336 lbs. gross weight - - - - -	-	8
On every cask, barrel, half barrel, or package of sugar under 336 lbs. gross weight - - - - -	-	4
On every puncheon or cask of rum as aforesaid, containing more than 52 imperial gallons - - - - -	1	-
On every puncheon, cask, or package of rum or other spirit as aforesaid, not exceeding 52 imperial gallons - - - - -	-	6
On every puncheon of molasses containing 90 gallons or upwards; on every cask or package of molasses containing less than 90 gallons - - -	-	6
For every 200 lbs. of arrowroot, and so in like proportion for any greater or less quantity - - - - -	-	6
On every 112 lbs. of cotton as aforesaid, and in like proportion for every fractional part of a hundredweight - - - - -	-	3
On every 112 lbs. of cocoa as aforesaid, and in like proportion for every fractional part of a hundredweight - - - - -	-	3

That the clauses of the "Export Tax Act, 1856," herein enumerated, and the powers therein contained shall be part of this Act, as though the same had been herein specially enacted, but the monies recovered under and by virtue of the same, so far as such clauses are resorted to for the purposes of this Act, shall be applied to immigration purposes.

That the 2d, 3d, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th clauses of the "Export Tax Act, 1856," and the enactments, provisions, and powers therein respectively contained, shall, so long as this Act shall continue in force, be, and the same are hereby declared to be part and parcel of this Act, and as though the same had been herein specially enacted and set forth, and shall be construed together with and as forming part of this present Act, notwithstanding that the said "Export Tax Act, 1856," may expire before this Act shall cease to have effect; but all taxes, fines, forfeitures, penalties, and monies recovered and paid under and by virtue of such clauses, enactments, provisions, and powers, so far as such clauses, enactments, provisions, and powers shall be resorted to for the purposes of this Act, shall be specially applied to immigration purposes, and be placed to the separate account hereinafter directed to be kept by the treasurer.

That

3. That a separate account shall be kept by the treasurer of the monies raised under the authority of this Act, which are hereby specially appropriated as a fund for immigration purposes, and to be paid and applied from time to time in such manner only as shall be declared by the Act of the Legislature of this Government.

Separate account to be kept of the duties under this Act, and to be applied to immigration purposes.

4. This Act shall continue in force for three years from the day next after the day on which the same shall have been duly proclaimed.

Duration of the Act.

5. That this Act may be cited as the "Additional Export Tax Act, 1857."

Act to be cited as the "Additional Export Tax Act, 1857."

Passed the Assembly this 21st day of July, in the year of our Lord 1857.

(signed) *George M. Browne*, Speaker.
Jas. H. Brown,
Clerk of the Assembly.

Passed the Council this 22d day of July 1857.

(signed) *H. E. Sharpe*, President.
Bouverie Alleyne,
Clerk of the Council.

I hereby assent to this Act.

16 October 1857.

(signed) *Jas. Walker*.

Assented to by his Excellency the Officer administering the Government, this 16th day of October 1857.

(signed) *Bouverie Alleyne*,
Colonial Secretary.

Marshal's Office, St. Vincent, 16 October 1857.

Proclaimed in Kingstown this day.

(signed) *James H. Brown*,
Acting Provost Marshal.

Appendix, No. 10.

Appendix, No. 10.

ST. VINCENT.

No. 704.

(signed) (L.S.) *James Walker*.

AN ACT to appropriate a portion of the General Revenue for Immigration Purposes.

WHEREAS the debt of this Colony up to the close of the past year has been paid by a sum of money raised on the special security of two Acts of the Legislature, namely, "The Export Tax Act, 1856," and "The Income Tax Act, 1856;" And whereas it is deemed advisable to provide, for immigration purposes, a sum of money greater in amount than shall be raised by an Act of the Legislature of this Colony to be cited as "The Additional Export Tax Act, 1857;" and, under the circumstances hereinbefore mentioned, it is thought just and proper that a sum of money equal to that which shall be raised by the last-mentioned Act shall be taken out of the general revenue of this colony: Be it therefore, and it is hereby enacted, by the Council and Assembly of the Government of the Island of St. Vincent and its dependencies:

Preamble.

1. That the treasurer of this Colony shall, on the 1st day of January now ensuing, and at the expiration of every succeeding half year, or from time to time as may be required, withdraw from the monies raised, collected, and received by him for and on account of the general revenue of this Colony and place, and apply to a separate account, to be headed and called "The Immigration Fund Account," a sum of money equal to the aggregate amount of the monies raised, levied, collected, and received by the said treasurer during the periods and times hereinbefore mentioned, under and by virtue of the provisions of an Act to be passed by the Legislature, and to be cited as "The Additional Export Tax Act, 1857: Provided always, that such sums so paid out of the said general revenue shall not, in amount, exceed the amount borrowed from the Colonial Bank, and applied to the payment of the public debt of the Colony under the provisions of an Act of the Legislature cited as "The Loan Act, 1856;" the repayment of which loan is made a special charge on two Acts of the Legislature, namely, "The Export Tax Act, 1856," and "The Income Tax Act, 1856."

From the general revenue on the 1st January 1858, and every half year during the continuance of this Act, there is to be taken, and applied to the Immigration Fund, a sum equal to that raised by "The Additional Export Tax Act, 1856," during the same period.

The monies to be placed to the "Immigration Fund Account," and be applied exclusively to the purposes of "The Immigration Loan Act."

2. That the monies so drawn from the general revenue, and placed and applied to the said separate account, to be called "The Immigration Fund Account," shall be specially and exclusively appropriated to the purposes of an Act of the Legislature, to be cited as "The Immigration Loan Act, 1857."

Act to be cited as "The Immigration Fund Act, 1857."

3. That this Act may, for all purposes, be cited as "The Immigration Fund Act, 1857." Passed the Assembly this 28th day of July in the year of our Lord 1857.

(signed) *George M. Browne*, Speaker.
James H. Brown,
Clerk of Assembly.

Passed the Board of Legislative Council this 28th day of July 1857.

(signed) *H. E. Sharpe*,
President of Council.

Allan Lewis,
Acting Clerk of Council.

Assented to by his Excellency the Officer administering the Government this 16th day of October 1857.

(signed) *Bouverie Alleyne*,
Colonial Secretary.

Marshal's Office, St. Vincent,
16 October 1857.

Proclaimed in Kingstown this day.

(signed) *James Brown*,
Acting Provost Marshal.

Appendix, No. 11.

Appendix, No. 11.

ST. VINCENT.

No. 705.

(L. S.)

James Walker.

AN ACT to authorise the raising of Loans of Money for Immigration Purposes, and to secure and provide for the Repayment of such Loans.

Preamble.

WHEREAS it is necessary to raise sums of money by loan for immigration purposes, Be it therefore enacted, by the Governor, Council, and Assembly of the Government of the island of St Vincent and its dependencies:

Appointment of Commissioners for the purposes of this Act.

1. That the President of Council and the Speaker of Assembly for the time being, and the Treasurer of the said island, are hereby constituted Commissioners for the purposes of this Act, with such powers as hereinafter declared.

Commissioners authorised to effect loans for immigration purposes.

2. That the said Commissioners shall and may, and they are hereby authorised, from and after the passing of this Act, to effect loans from time to time as may be required for immigration purposes, by and on behalf of the Government of this Colony, to an extent not exceeding 7,000*L.*, either with the Colonial Bank or any other corporation or company, person or persons willing to advance the same, on such terms as may be mutually agreed to, and as may in the judgment of the said Commissioners, be most for the advantage of this Colony; and for such purpose the said Commissioners are hereby authorised and empowered from time to time to make, sign, and execute in their capacity as Commissioners under this Act, and for and in behalf of the Government of this Colony, all or any such agreement or agreements, promissory note or notes, bill or bills of exchange, acceptance or acceptances, or other obligation or instruments in writing, as shall be required and necessary to effectuate the purposes and objects of this Act, and to effect such loans as aforesaid and for securing the repayment of the same with interest or discount thereon, at such rates as may be agreed and fixed upon.

Commissioners not personally liable under any agreement entered into by them under this Act.

3. That the said Commissioners shall not, by reason of their entering into or signing any agreement or agreements for any loan or loans on behalf of the said Government under this Act, or by reason of their signing or making any promissory note or notes, bill or bills of exchange, acceptance or acceptances, or other obligations under the authority of this Act, incur any personal liability, or be liable to be sued in respect of the same; but that the same shall be taken to be made on behalf of the said Government, and shall be binding and obligatory on the said Government, and shall be met and provided for in manner hereinafter particularly mentioned.

4. That

4. That if any person shall forge or counterfeit any promissory note, bill of exchange, acceptance or other obligation, or instrument made, executed, issued, or given, under the authority of this Act, or shall present for payment, or dispose of or pass off, sell, or negotiate any such forged or counterfeit note, bill, acceptance, or other obligation or instrument, knowing the same to be forged or counterfeit, or shall forge or counterfeit the signatures of the said Commissioners, or of any or either of them, and set and affix the same to any agreement, note, bill, acceptance, obligation or instrument, authorised or purporting to be authorised to be entered into, or executed or given under this Act, or shall aid, assist, or abet any person in the commission of any such offence as aforesaid, every such person shall be deemed guilty of felony, and shall, on conviction, be liable to be imprisoned with hard labour, for any period not exceeding three years, and if a male, to be once, twice, or thrice publicly whipped.

Forging note, bill, &c., felony.

5. And in order to make provision for paying off the loan or loans effected by the said Commissioners under the authority of this Act, and for securing the amount of the same Be it enacted, that all public monies to be hereafter received by the treasurer of this Colony under any Acts of the same, are hereby declared to be applicable to the repayment of the said loan or loans (subject always to any monies which may become due and payable therefrom under "The Loan Act, 1856") if the same shall not be liquidated by and out of the special fund provided for that purpose as hereinafter mentioned; and the whole revenue of this Government is hereby declared to be charged, and it is hereby made chargeable with the payment of the said loans, with the interest or discount thereon, in preference and in priority to any other claim or demand whatsoever, save and except, and subject always to any monies which may from time to time be payable thereout under and by virtue of the said "Loan Act, 1856." Provided always, that the funds raised, collected, and received under Acts of the said Government to be respectively cited as "The Additional Export Tax Act, 1857," and "The Immigration Fund Act, 1857," and any balance which shall remain of the monies raised, collected, and received by the treasurer of this Colony under "The Income Tax Act, 1856," and "The Export Tax Act, 1856," after satisfying the amount payable under the provisions of the said "Loan Act, 1856," shall in the first place be made applicable and be applied to the repayment of the loans to be effected under this Act, with the interest or discount thereon. And provided always, that if any sum of money shall be paid from and out of the general revenue as aforesaid for or towards the repayment of any loan effected under the provisions of this Act, then such sum shall be repaid from and out of the proceeds of the said "Additional Tax Act, 1857," and "The Immigration Fund Act, 1857," before any fresh loan shall be contracted by the Commissioners under this Act.

Amount of loans a charge on the public revenue, subject to the provisions of "The Loan Act, 1856," but to be paid in the first place out of "The Additional Export Tax Act, 1857," "The Immigration Fund Act, 1857," and the unexpended balance of "The Income Tax Act, 1856," and "The Export Tax Act, 1856."

6. That the monies raised under this Act shall be paid by the said Commissioners into the public treasury, and shall be placed by the treasurer of this Colony to a separate account, to be called "The Immigration Fund Account."

Monies to be paid into Treasury, and placed to a separate account, to be called "The Immigration Fund Account."

7. That this Act may for any purposes be cited as "The Immigration Loan Act, 1857." Short title of Act.

Passed the Assembly this 28th day of July, in the year of our Lord 1857.

(signed) *George M. Browne*, Speaker.
James H Brown,
Clerk of Assembly.

Passed the Board of Legislative Council this 28th day of July 1857.

(signed) *H. E. Sharpe*,
President of Council.
Allan Lewis,
Acting Clerk of Council.

I hereby assent to this Act.

(signed) *Jas Walker*.

16 October 1857.

Assented to by his Excellency the Officer administering the Government, this 16th day of October 1857.

(signed) *Bouverie Alleyne*,
Colonial Secretary.

Proclaimed in Kingstown this day.

(signed)

James H. Brown,
Acting Provost Marshal.

Marshal's Office, St. Vincent,
16 October 1857.

Appendix, No. 12.

Appendix, No. 12.

ST. VINCENT.

No. 718.

(L. S.)

E. Eyre, Lieutenant Governor.

AN ACT to repeal certain Clauses of an Act, intituled, "An Act to alter the Law of Contracts with regard to Immigrants, and for the Encouragement of Immigration, and for the general Regulation of Immigrants," and to make other Provision in lieu thereof, and further to amend the said Act.

Preamble.

WHEREAS the 13th section of an Act, intituled, "An Act to alter the Law of Contracts with regard to Immigrants, and for the Encouragement of Immigration, and for the general Regulation of Immigrants," by an oversight, sanctions contracts with immigrants for an indefinite period, which was contrary to the intention of the Legislature; for remedy whereof, and for altering and amending the said Act in other particulars: Be it enacted, by the Governor, Council, and Assembly of the Island of St. Vincent, as follows:

Repeals 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 22d and 36th sections of "An Act to alter the Law of Contracts with regard to Immigrants, and for the Encouragement of Immigration, and for the general Regulation of Immigrants."

1. That the said 13th clause, and also the 14th, 15th, 16th, 22d, and 36th sections of the said recited Act shall be and the same are hereby repealed; and in lieu thereof it is enacted and declared as follows (that is to say): if any labourer, not being an immigrant, in respect of whom bounty shall be claimed, arriving in this Colony from Madeira, the Azores, the Canaries, or the Cape de Verd Islands, or from any part of Europe, or of the West Indies, or of the United States of America, or of the British Provinces of North America, or from any port or place from which immigration on bounty shall have been permitted by proclamation issued under the authority of the said recited Act, except from any place mentioned in the 12th clause of the said Act, shall, before his arrival have contracted with any person to perform service in this Colony, such contract shall, when approved and countersigned by the Immigration Agent, and subject to such alterations as the said Agent may, with the consent of the parties, have made therein, be valid in this Colony for the full period named in such contract, not exceeding three years, provided such contract, or the same with such alterations thereto as aforesaid, be not in violation of any of the provisions of the said recited Act or this Act: and provided that, except as hereinafter mentioned, no such contract shall be so approved and countersigned, unless it shall have been signed with the names or marks of the contracting parties, and attested by some notary public, or British Consul, or by some other person approved by or acting under authority of Her Majesty's Government, who shall declare that the parties entered into it voluntarily, and with a full understanding of its meaning, nor unless the Immigration Agent shall be satisfied that the immigration has been carried on in accordance with all existing regulations of the Imperial or Colonial Government.

The Governor may direct Immigration Agent to approve contract.

2. If the Immigration Agent shall not be satisfied, or shall find the contract not to be so signed and attested as aforesaid, he shall report the same to the Governor, who may, if he shall think fit, notwithstanding such report, direct the Immigration Agent to approve and countersign such contract in manner aforesaid.

Form of indenture.

3. Every immigrant from the island of Madeira, from any of the islands of the Azores, or the Cape de Verd, or Canary Islands, or from Her Majesty's dominions in the East Indies, or from the possessions of the East India Company, or from China, or from any part of the African continent from which immigration shall be permitted by Her Majesty's Government, who shall not before arrival have entered into contract, to be approved as aforesaid: And every liberated African of the first class shall be indentured in the form in the Schedule annexed to the said hereinbefore recited Act, marked (B.), for a period of three years from the date of his arrival; and every such immigrant other than one from the African continent, or a liberated African, shall, at the end of the said three years, enter into a second indenture with the same or some other employer, for a further term of two years, or shall pay, in commutation thereof, the sum hereinafter in that behalf mentioned; but every such immigrant entering into such second indenture, shall be entitled, at the expiration of one year's service under such indenture, to pay, in commutation of the remaining year's service, the sum hereinafter in that behalf mentioned.

Commutation for service.

4. Every immigrant other than one from the African continent or a liberated African who shall elect to pay a sum of money in commutation of service under indenture shall pay in commutation of two years' service the sum of 5*l.* sterling, and in commutation of one year's service the sum of 2*l.* 10*s.*; and if any such immigrant shall fail to declare to the Immigration Agent or to the police magistrate, or, if there be no police magistrate, to the presiding justice of the peace of the police district in which such immigrant may be then resident, not less than one nor more than three months before the expiration of the indenture under which he may be then serving, whether he desires to be re-indentured or indentured to some other employer for the remaining two years, or whether he will pay in commutation of service under indenture the sum of money enacted for commutation of service as aforesaid, or having elected to enter into a fresh indenture or to pay in commutation of such service, shall fail to be indentured or to pay the sum of money appointed for such commutation of service to the Immigration Agent

or

or to the police magistrate of the district in which such immigrant may be then residing, at least fourteen days before the expiration of the indenture under which he may be then serving, such indenture so entered into for three years shall thereupon be deemed to be renewed in like manner as if such immigrant had applied to be re-indentured; and the Immigration Agent or such magistrate, as the case may be, shall within eight days after such election and after such payment in commutation of service as aforesaid by such immigrant, notify the employer of such immigrant of such election or payment respectively, for his guidance in that behalf.

5. Every employer to whom any immigrant shall be indentured on arrival in this Colony, as provided by the said hereinbefore recited Act or this Act, shall on or before the execution of such indenture pay to the public Treasurer one half the bounty or passage-money which shall be due or shall have been paid in respect of such immigrant, and if at the expiration of the third year of contract of any immigrant, or of indenture of any immigrant, under the Form (B) to the said recited Act annexed, such immigrant, whether such immigrant be imported at the public expense or under private contract, according to the provision of the fourth clause of the said recited Act, shall not at the expiration of the third year of his service, under contract or indenture as aforesaid, re-indent himself to his said or some other employer for two years' further service, but shall pay the sum of money hereinbefore in that behalf mentioned and provided for commutation of such two years' service, then and in such case such first employer shall be entitled to demand from the Treasurer of this Colony and shall receive out of the Immigration Fund a sum of money equal to one-fifth of the aforesaid bounty or passage-money of such immigrant, and if such immigrant shall re-indent himself for the further period of two years, or continue in the service of his said employer beyond the period of three years under his said first indenture or contract, but at the expiration of his fourth year of service or of the first year under the second indenture, shall pay the sum of money hereinbefore enacted for commutation of his fifth year of service under indenture, then and in such case such employer shall be entitled to demand from the said Treasurer and shall receive out of the said Immigration Fund a sum of money equal to one-tenth of the aforesaid bounty or passage-money of such immigrant: provided always, if such immigrant shall, at the expiration of his three years' service, re-indent himself to some other employer than his first employer, instead of paying the commutation money, or re-indenting himself to his first employer, such first employer shall be entitled to receive the same sum of money from the Treasurer as hereinbefore provided in case such immigrant had commuted his further term of service, and the person to whom such immigrant shall indent himself for the two remaining years shall, before the indenture be approved or countersigned, pay a like sum of money into the public treasury for the purposes of the Immigration Fund, and no such second indenture shall be deemed valid unless such sum of money be so paid, and such payment shall be indorsed on the indenture; and provided also, if such immigrant shall at the expiration of the first year of his second indenture pay the sum of money hereinbefore in that behalf mentioned as commutation for his last year of service, the person to whom he shall be then under indenture shall be entitled to receive from the Treasurer the said sum of money, equal to one-tenth of the said bounty.

Bounty to be paid by employer of immigrants.

If after the first time of service, immigrant re-indent himself to a new employer, the original employer to receive compensation from the Treasurer, the new employer paying a like sum into the Treasury to the Immigration Fund.

If immigrant pay commutation after his first term of service, his employer shall receive from the Treasurer a sum equal to one-tenth of bounty.

6. If it shall be established before any two justices of the peace, on complaint preferred by any indentured immigrant, that such immigrant is not provided by his employer with sufficient work to enable him to earn a just amount of wages in terms of his contract, such justices shall declare and adjudge the contract or indenture of such immigrant to be thereby cancelled, and thereupon it shall be lawful for the Governor to cause such immigrant to be indentured to some other employer, who shall be required to pay such sums as may be the due proportion of the bounty or passage-money for the unexpired period of the term of service transferred to him, the original employer and his estate remaining liable, however, for such sum or sums as may be due for the expired term or proportion of the whole period of service, as expressed in the original contract or indenture.

Employer failing to provide employment.

7. And whereas by an Act intituled, "An Act to continue in force two several Acts of the Island of St. Vincent, intituled respectively, 'An Act for regulating Rights of Masters and Servants, and for the better enforcement of Contracts,' and, 'An Act for promoting and encouraging the Immigration of Labourers into the Colony of St. Vincent, and for regulating Contracts to be entered into with them,'" made and passed in the year 1852, and which was permanent, the said recited Acts were made perpetual; Be it therefore enacted that so much of the said lastly recited Act as continues in force, and makes perpetual the said Act intituled, "An Act for promoting and encouraging the Immigration of Labourers into the Colony of St. Vincent, and for regulating Contracts to be entered into with them" shall be, and the same is, hereby repealed:

Repeals so much of Act of 1852, as makes permanent "The Immigration Act, 1847."

8. And whereas the provisions of the Act of the said island, intituled, "An Act for regulating Rights of Masters and Servants, and for the better enforcement of Contracts," are in many respects at variance with the provisions of "The Immigration Act, 1857," but it is intended that both should remain in full force and operation, be it therefore enacted that nothing in the said "Immigration Act, 1857," shall be construed to work a repeal of any of the provisions of the said firstly-mentioned Act, but that all and every the several enactments and provisions of the said Act for regulating rights of masters and servants, and for the better enforcement of contracts, shall be and remain in full force, and be and remain applicable to contracts between masters and servants, such servants not being immigrants within the meaning of the said "Immigration Act, 1857," and that the several enactments

"Immigration Act, 1857," not to act as repeal of "Master and Servants Act, 1839."

Provisions of "Master and Servants Act, 1839," to remain applicable to servants not being immigrants.

Provisions of "Immigration Act, 1857," enactments and provisions of the said "Immigration Act, 1857," and this to be applicable to immigrants only. present Act, shall be exclusively applicable to immigrants and their employers.

Short titles of Immigration Acts.

9. That the said hereinbefore recited Act, intituled, "An Act to alter the Law of Contracts with regard to Immigrants, and for the Encouragement of Immigration, and for the general Regulation of Immigrants," shall be cited as "The Immigration Act, 1857," and this present Act shall be cited as "The Amended Immigration Act, 1858."

Provisions of "Immigration Act, 1857," except such as are repealed, to be applicable to this present Act.

10. That all and every the provisions of "The Immigration Act, 1857," except such as are hereby repealed, shall and are hereby declared to be applicable to this present Act, and all proceedings under the same; and the provisions of this present Act shall, and the same are hereby declared to be, applicable to the said "Immigration Act, 1857," and to all proceedings under the same, and the said "Immigration Act, 1857" and this present Act shall be read and construed as one Act.

Passed the House of Assembly the 8th day of September 1858.

(signed) *John H. Hazell,*
Speaker (pro tem.).
J. Hamilton Hazell,
Acting Clerk of Assembly.

Passed the Council this 7th day of October, in the year 1858.

(signed) *H. E. Sharpe,*
President of Council.
Bouverie Alleyne,
Clerk of Council.

I hereby assent to this Act.

22 October 1858. (signed) *E. Eyre.*

Assented to by his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor this 22d day of October 1858.

(signed) *Bouverie Alleyne,*
Colonial Secretary.

Marshal's Office, 22 October 1858.

Duly proclaimed in Kingstown this day.

(signed) *A. P. Hobson,*
Acting Provost Marshal.

ST. VINCENT.

THESE are to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of an Act intituled, "An Act to repeal certain Clauses of an Act intituled, 'An Act to alter the Law of Contracts with regard to Immigrants, and for the Encouragement of Immigration, and for the general Regulation of Immigrants,' and to make other Provisions in lieu thereof, and further to amend the said Act," which Act passed the Council and Assembly, was assented to by his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, and proclaimed in Kingstown as therein stated.

Given under my hand at the Secretary's office, this 6th day of November 1858.

(signed) *Bouverie Alleyne,*
Colonial Secretary.

Appendix, No. 13.

Appendix, No. 13.

(No. 442.)

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

No. 737.

(L. S.)

Hercules G. R. Robinson.

AN ACT to remove Doubts as to the Rights of "Liberated Africans," in the Islands of St. Christopher and Anguilla, and to Amend the Laws relating to Aliens.—Dated 3 February 1857.

Preamble.

WHEREAS doubts have been entertained whether Africans who have been liberated, or taken and received under the protection of the Crown, under the provisions of the Acts for the abolition and suppression of the slave trade domiciled in the islands of St. Christopher and Anguilla, are British subjects: And whereas it is expedient that the laws now in force affecting aliens generally should be amended, and that aliens should have and enjoy within the said islands of St. Christopher and Anguilla, the rights and capacities of British subjects,

subjects, except as hereinafter excepted: Be it therefore enacted by the Officer administering the Government of Her Majesty's islands of St. Christopher and Anguilla, and the Council and Assembly of the same:

Appendix, No. 13.

1. That all liberated Africans domiciled or resident, or who hereafter may be domiciled or resident in either of the said islands of St. Christopher or Anguilla shall be deemed to be and to have been for all purposes as from the date of their being brought into or of their arrival in either of the said islands, natural-born subjects of Her Majesty, and to be and to have been capable of taking, holding, conveying, devising, and transmitting any estate, real or personal, within either of the said islands.

All domiciled or resident Liberated Africans to be deemed to be natural-born subjects of Her Majesty, and to be capable of holding and conveying any estate, real or personal.

2. For the purposes of this Act, the words "liberated African," shall mean and include all persons dealt with or detained as slaves, who heretofore have been or hereafter may be seized or taken under any of the Acts for the abolition or suppression of the slave trade, by Her Majesty's ships of war, or otherwise, and liberated, or delivered to the officers appointed to protect, receive, or provide for such persons, and all other persons who, as having been dealt with, carried, or kept or detained as slaves, may have been taken and liberated, or received, protected, or provided for under any of the said Acts.

Interpretation of the words "Liberated Africans."

3. Provided always, that nothing in this Act shall in anywise prejudice or interfere with any of the provisions in relation to such liberated Africans as aforesaid, of the laws in force for the abolition or suppression of the slave trade.

This Act not to interfere with the provisions of the laws in force for the abolition, &c. of the Slave Trade in relation to Liberated Africans.

4. And be it further enacted, that every person now born, or hereafter to be born, out of Her Majesty's dominions, of a mother being a natural-born subject of Her Majesty, shall be capable of taking to him, his heirs, executors, or administrators, any estate, real or personal, by devise or purchase, or inheritance of succession.

Every person born out of Her Majesty's dominions of a mother being a natural-born subject capable of taking any estate, real or personal, by descent or purchase.

5. That from and after the passing of this Act, every alien, being the subject of a friendly State shall and may take and hold by purchase, gift, bequest, representation or otherwise, to him, his heirs, executors, or administrators, according to the respective nature or quality of the property, any estate, real or personal, as fully and effectually to all intents and purposes, and with the same rights, remedies, exemptions, privileges, and capacities, as if he were a natural-born subject of Her Majesty, except that such alien shall not be thereby capable of becoming a Member of the Council or of the Assembly of these islands, nor of voting at any election of Members to serve in the Assembly of these islands.

Alien friend may hold property, real or personal, with the same rights and privileges as if he were a natural-born subject; but shall not be capable of becoming a Member of either House of Legislature, nor of voting at any election of Members of the Assembly.

6. That any woman, married or who shall be married to a natural-born subject or person naturalised, shall be deemed and taken to be herself naturalised, and have all the rights and privileges of a natural-born subject.

Any woman married to a natural-born subject, or person naturalised, shall be deemed to be herself naturalised.

7. Provided always, and be it enacted, that nothing in this Act contained shall prejudice or be construed to prejudice any right or interest, in law or in equity, whether vested or contingent under any will, deed, or settlement, executed by any natural-born British subject before the passing of this Act, or under any descent or representation form, or under any such natural-born subject who shall have died before the passing of this Act.

These provisions not to prejudice any right or interest at law or in equity, whether vested or contingent, which shall have accrued before the passing of this Act.

8. That nothing herein contained shall be construed so as to take away or diminish any right, privileges, or capacity, heretofore lawfully possessed by or belonging to aliens residing in these islands, so far as relates to the possession or enjoyment of any real or personal property, but that all such rights shall continue to be enjoyed by such aliens in as full and ample a manner as such rights were enjoyed before the passing of this Act.

Nor to take away or diminish any right or privilege heretofore enjoyed by a resident alien, so far as relates to the possession or enjoyment of any real or personal property.

9. And be it enacted that this Act may be amended or repealed by any Act to be passed in the present Session.

This Act may be amended.

10. This Act shall have no force or operation until the same shall have been ratified and confirmed by Her Majesty, and such ratification and confirmation shall have been duly published.

Suspending clause.

(signed) *Thomas Turner,*
Speaker.

Passed the House of Assembly this 16th day of October, A. D. 1857.

(signed) *Jos. K. Wattley,*
Clk. Assembly.

Passed the Board of Council this 6th day of December, A. D. 1857.

(signed) *T. P. Berridge,*
Clk. Council.

Dated at St. Christopher this 3d day of February, in the year of our Lord 1857.

(signed) *Hercules G. R. Robinson.*

Appendix, No. 14.

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

(L. S.)

Hercules G. R. Robinson.

AN ACT to alter and amend an Act intituled, “ An Act to provide Medical Attendance for the Infant Children of the Labouring Population.”—Dated 9 July 1857.

Preamble.

WHEREAS it is expedient to alter and amend an Act, No. 713, intituled, "An Act to provide Medical Attendance for the Infant Children of the Labouring Population," and to continue in force for a longer period the said Act so altered and amended: We therefore, your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Officer administering the Government of the islands of St. Christopher and Anguilla, and the Council and Assembly of the same, do pray your Most Excellent Majesty that it may be enacted, and be it and it is hereby enacted:

Fourth clause of Act, No. 713, amended. Fifth clause repealed.

1. That the words "in the form hereinafter set forth, shall be added to the 4th clause of the said recited Act, immediately following the word "treatment," and that the 5th clause of the said recited Act be and the same is hereby repealed.

Additional duties of medical officers.

2. That in addition to the duties specified in the said Act, it shall be the duty of each of the said medical officers, on the order of any minister of religion or justice of the peace, to attend, and furnish the necessary aid and medicines to any poor and destitute woman in his district who may be suffering in travail or childbirth.

Salaries of medical officers.

3. That each of the said medical officers appointed to the several districts of the island be allowed the sum of 120*l.* per annum, payable quarterly.

**Duration of Act,
No. 173, as
amended.**

4. That the said Act, altered and amended as hereinbefore mentioned, shall continue and be in full force and virtue for and during the term of three years from the passing of this Act, and further, until the expiration of the then sitting House of Assembly, anything in the said Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

SCHEDULE.

RETURN of the Cases treated by the Medical Officers in District _____ , for
the Quarter ending _____ 185 .

Dates of Attendance.	Names of Persons Attended.	Age of Child.	Names of Parents of Children.	Residence.	Disease, or Cause of Treatment.	Result of Case.	Remarks.

Thos. Turner, Speaker.

Passed the House of Assembly this 4th day of June, A. D. 1857.

(signed) *Jos. K. Wattley,*
Clk. Assembly.

Passed the Board of Council this 18th day of June, A. D. 1857.

(signed) *T. P. Berridge,*
Clk. Council.

Dated at St. Christopher this 9th day of July, in the year of our Lord 1857.

Hercules G. R. Robinson.

Appendix, No 15.

Appendix, No. 15.

(No. 453.)

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

No. 137.

(L. S.)

Hercules G. R. Robinson.

AN ACT to authorise the Governor in Council from time to time to declare, by Proclamation, the Ports or Places from whence Immigrants may be obtained under the Laws now in force in this Colony.—[Dated 3 May 1858.]

WHEREAS by an Act, intituled, “An Act to encourage the Immigration of Agricultural Labourers, and for such purpose to grant an aid to Her Majesty by a tax upon Exports,” and also by a certain other Act, intituled, “An Act further to encourage the Immigration of Agricultural Labourers,” certain ports, islands, and places are named as being places from which immigrants may be obtained and bounty paid under the provisions of the said recited Acts: And whereas it is expedient that the Governor in Council should be authorised from time to time, by proclamation, to declare from what other places immigrants under the provisions of the said Acts may be obtained in addition to those named in the said Acts: Be it therefore enacted,

1. That in addition to the places mentioned in the said recited Acts, it may from time to time be lawful for the Governor in Council to declare, by proclamation, from what other port or places immigration under indenture, according to the provisions of the above-recited Acts, for the encouragement of the immigration of agricultural labourers, shall be permitted to this island, at the public charge; and such ports or places so from time to time proclaimed shall, to all intents and purposes, be taken and considered as if the same had been named or mentioned in either of the said Acts respectively.

2. That the word “Governor” shall be construed to mean the Officer for the time being administering the Government of St. Christopher.

(signed) *Thomas Turner*, Speaker.

Passed the Board of Council this 29th October 1857.

(signed) *T. P. Berridge*,
Clk. Council.

Passed the House of Assembly this 21st January 1858.

(signed) *Jos. K. Wattley*,
Clk. Assembly.

Dated at St. Christopher, this 3d day of May in the year of our Lord 1858, and in the 21st year of Her Majesty's reign.

(signed) *Hercules G. R. Robinson.*

Appendix, No. 16.

Appendix, No. 16.

ORDINANCE No. 3 of 1857, Enacted by the Governor of *Mauritius* with the Advice and Consent of the Council of Government thereof.

(L. S.)

J. M. Higginson.

AN ORDINANCE to amend the Laws concerning Quarantine.—[6th February 1857.]

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the Laws concerning Quarantine; be it therefore enacted by his Excellency the Governor in Council as follows:—

1. Articles 1 to 6 and 12 to 23 inclusive, and art. 44 of Ordinance No. 38, of 1844, and the Proclamations dated 4th September 1852, and 25th April and 13th June 1856, are hereby repealed; and the other articles of the said Ordinance, as well as the Ordinance No. 37, of 1851, are also hereby repealed in so far as they may be inconsistent with the provisions hereof.

Repeal of former Ordinances and Proclamations.

2. There shall be set apart and appropriated for the Island of Mauritius two permanent quarantine stations, one of which shall be at Flat Island, and shall, except as hereinafter provided, be appropriated to persons undergoing quarantine for cholera, and the other of which shall be on Cannonier's Point on the Island of Mauritius, and shall be used for persons undergoing quarantine for any disease or diseases except cholera.

Permanent quarantine stations appointed.

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Boundary of quarantine station at Flat Island.

3. The quarantine station at Flat Island shall embrace the whole of that island, with the sea surrounding it to the distance of 200 yards from the shore at low water; and whenever the said station is in quarantine, such quarantine shall extend to Gabriel Island with the sea surrounding it to the said distance, and the sea between the said two islands.

Boundary of station at Cannoniers' Point.

4. The quarantine station at Cannoniers' Point shall include the portion of ground bounded as follows: on the north-east and south-west by a double line of stockade, on the north-west and south-west by the sea, together with the sea surrounding the said piece of ground to the distance of 200 yards from the shore at low water.

Neutral ground at Cannoniers' Point.

5. There shall also be at Cannoniers' Point a portion of ground extending 200 yards on the landward side of the stockade before mentioned, which shall be termed the neutral ground attached to the Lazaret, and shall be used for the purposes set forth in this Ordinance, and in any Regulations to be made in virtue thereof. Such portion of ground shall be marked off on the landward side in such manner as the Governor shall determine and publish by proclamation.

Boundary of temporary station at roadstead.

6. Whenever it shall be necessary for any vessel or vessels to perform quarantine at the roadstead of Port Louis, in manner hereinafter provided, such vessel or vessels, and the sea surrounding them respectively to the distance of 200 yards, shall be held to be a quarantine station for the whole time during which such vessel or vessels may be in quarantine in the said roadstead.

Governor may appoint other quarantine station.

7. It shall be in the power of the Governor in Executive Council, whenever he shall think necessary, to set apart and appropriate, either temporarily or permanently, as a quarantine station or stations, any portion or portions of land upon the sea coast of Mauritius or its dependencies, and the sea surrounding or adjoining the same to such distance as he may determine, together with such buildings and outhouses as shall be required for the said purpose, and also to appoint such persons as he may deem proper to the charge of such quarantine station or stations, and to declare that the same shall be subject to all or any of the provisions of this Ordinance, and to all or any regulations which may be made in virtue thereof: provided that no part of the mainland of Mauritius shall at any time be so appropriated as a quarantine station for cholera, and also provided that the exercise of the said powers shall be published by proclamation in the Government Gazette.

Governor may appropriate temporarily quarantine station at Flat Island for other diseases besides cholera.

8. It shall be in the power of the Governor, by proclamation, to appropriate, for such time as he shall appoint, the quarantine station at Flat Island for the performance of quarantine for any other disease besides cholera: provided that such quarantine shall not be performed at such station while the same is used for quarantine for cholera.

Surgeon Superintendent attached to each quarantine station.

9. There shall be attached to each of the permanent quarantine stations before specified a Surgeon Superintendent, who, under the direction of the Chief Medical Officer of Mauritius, shall (with the exception after provided) have the sole superintendence of all the persons forming the quarantine establishment to which he is attached, and of all the persons who may be in quarantine there, all of whom are hereby bound to obey all lawful orders issued by such Surgeon Superintendent; but provided that he shall have no authority over any of the persons forming the military establishment at such lazaret, and that whenever he shall consider it necessary that any orders should be conveyed to any of such persons, he shall communicate with the officer in command of such military establishment, who shall act thereupon as he may deem proper.

Vessel in quarantine in roadstead to be under orders of harbour master or other officer.

10. Any vessel performing quarantine in the roadstead of Port Louis, shall, during the whole continuance thereof, be under the direction of the harbour master, or other officer to be appointed by the Governor to that duty, and all persons on board of such vessel shall be bound to obey all lawful orders issued by the harbour master or said other officer, so long as such quarantine continues.

Signal to be made that station is in quarantine.

11. Whenever either of the permanent quarantine stations or any place to be appropriated for a quarantine station as hereinbefore provided, shall be in quarantine, the same shall be notified by two or more yellow flags, hoisted at conspicuous places in such quarantine station, and which flags shall be kept constantly flying during such quarantine. And the display of such flags shall be deemed sufficient notice to all persons that such station is in quarantine.

Signal to be made that vessel in roadstead is in quarantine.

12. Whenever any vessel shall be ordered to perform quarantine in the roadstead of Port Louis, the master shall cause a yellow flag, (which, if required, shall be furnished by the harbour master), to be kept hoisted at the fore the whole time during which such quarantine shall continue, and the display of such flag shall be deemed sufficient notice that such vessel, and the sea surrounding the same to the distance of 200 yards, is in quarantine.

When quarantine signal displayed, approach to be only in manner specified.

13. Whenever the quarantine station at Flat Island or any vessel performing quarantine in the roadstead of Port Louis, shall display the signals respectively before specified, they shall not be approached except by boats displaying a yellow flag, under the orders of the harbour master, or of such other officer as may be appointed by the Governor as before provided.

Whenever the quarantine station at Cannoniers' Point shall display the signal before provided, it shall not be approached by sea except in one of the modes thus specified; and any persons wishing to convey stores, letters or other documents, or to approach the said quarantine

quarantine station from the landward, shall be bound to remain at the landward side of the neutral ground adjacent thereto. **Appendix, No. 16.**

14. Any person approaching either of the quarantine stations, or any vessel in the roadstead of Port Louis when under quarantine, respectively, in breach of these rules, and not withdrawing when ordered by the military or police on duty at the time, shall be dealt with in the manner hereinafter provided regarding persons attempting to escape from quarantine, and shall be subject to the same pains and penalties as such persons. **Persons improperly approaching to be treated as those attempting to escape from quarantine.**

15. No person who shall have been subjected to quarantine at either of the permanent quarantine stations shall, on any pretence whatsoever, leave such station until he shall have been admitted to pratique by the Surgeon Superintendent. And no person who shall be on board any vessel when ordered to perform quarantine in the roadstead of Port Louis, shall, on any pretence whatsoever, leave such vessel during such quarantine. **No person to leave quarantine till its termination.**

Any person who shall transgress either of these rules with intention of escaping from quarantine shall be brought back by force, and, if necessary to prevent his escape, may be fired on. Such person shall also be subject to a fine not exceeding 40*l.* sterling, and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, and in aggravated cases these penalties may be accumulated.

16. Upon the quarantine signal being hoisted in any vessel, and so long as the same shall remain, all communication between the vessel and the shore respectively, and all communication between the vessel and any other vessels or boats in any harbour or roadstead of Mauritius, shall be prohibited, and any person who shall quit such vessel and shall communicate with any individual whatever, out of the same, and every person who from the shore or elsewhere aforesaid shall communicate with such vessel, as well as all persons who shall have aided or facilitated any such communication, shall be liable to the penalties set forth in the preceding article. But, excepting from these prohibitions and penalties all communications made by means of boats in terms of this Ordinance, and in virtue of any order issuing from the harbour master or other officer appointed by the Governor as aforesaid. **Communication with vessel in quarantine prohibited under penalties.**

17. Whoever shall have communicated with a vessel under quarantine, whether such communication shall have taken place before or after the order for quarantine shall have been given, and whoever shall have communicated with any person or place under quarantine shall be bound to remain in or return to such vessel or place, or to the vessel or place in which such person may have been ordered to perform quarantine, as the case may be, and to remain in such vessel or place respectively during the whole period of the quarantine. In case of refusal or resistance, the person offending may, upon an order from any one of the judges of the Supreme Court or from any district magistrate, be arrested and brought back: provided that if such communication shall have been witnessed by any member of the police force attached to the quarantine station, or on duty at the place or vessel where it occurred, the party offending may immediately be apprehended by such person, or by any other member of such force, without warrant. **Persons communicating with vessel or place in quarantine to go into quarantine.**

18. In case any person through ignorance, stress of weather or other accident, shall land upon any part of either of the permanent quarantine stations when in quarantine, or shall go on board any vessel undergoing quarantine, such person shall be detained in quarantine for such period as shall be appointed by the Surgeon Superintendent of such station, or Health Officer, as the case may be. **Persons accidentally encroaching to go into quarantine.**

19. All persons belonging to the pilot's boat and to that of the Health Officer or Surgeon Superintendent, respectively, who shall have been on board of the vessel either before or at the time when the quarantine flag was hoisted, shall be bound to remain there or return thither, as the case may be, under the penalties set forth in Article 15 hereof. The Health Officer, or Surgeon Superintendent, pilot, and such of the crews of their boats as may have been taken on board by the master to assist in the service of the vessel, shall be entitled to a proportionate indemnity, for which the master and owners of the vessel shall be held jointly and severally responsible, and which, where the parties shall not come to an amicable understanding regarding it, shall be fixed by the district court, summarily and without appeal. **Persons in Health Officer's or pilot's boats to go into quarantine in certain cases and obtain indemnity.**

20. No vessel arriving at Mauritius shall, under a penalty not exceeding 200*l.*, to be paid by the master or owners, enter any harbour thereof until she shall have been admitted to pratique in terms of this Ordinance and relative proclamations; and no person shall, under penalty of a fine not exceeding 50*l.* or imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months, leave such vessel previous to such pratique, except in order to go into quarantine, as herein provided. **Pratique necessary before vessel enters harbour.**

21. On the arrival of any vessel at Mauritius, no persons whatever, except authorised pilots, and, in the case hereinafter specified, the Health Officer of Port Louis, shall be allowed to go within 100 yards of such vessel until the pilot shall have brought her into harbour; and in no case whatever shall any person, other than the pilot and Health Officer and crews of their respective boats, come into actual contact with the vessel until she shall have been admitted to pratique. Any person transgressing either of these regulations shall be liable to a fine not exceeding 40*l.*, or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding two months. In aggravated cases these penalties may be inflicted cumulatively, and the boat or boats which may have been used for such unlawful purpose may be confiscated. **Communication with vessel which has not obtained pratique prohibited under penalties.**

Rules to be delivered by pilot on vessel arriving, under penalties.

22. The pilot shall approach the vessel to windward within speaking distance, and shall not go alongside or aboard unless he shall believe that the vessel is free from infectious or contagious disease. As soon as convenient after his arrival alongside or going on board, he shall deliver to the master or other officer in command of the vessel a copy of this Ordinance and of all regulations made in virtue of the powers herein contained; and he shall put to the master or other officer in command the questions contained in a printed form conformably to the schedule annexed hereto, with copies of which form every pilot shall be bound to provide himself at the port office; and the master or other officer aforesaid shall without delay write upon the said form the answers to the said questions, and shall return the same so completed to the pilot.

Any pilot omitting or dispensing with these formalities shall be liable to a fine not exceeding 200 L., or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding four months.

Rules to be observed by Health Officer on approaching vessel.

23. The Health Officer (who shall be accompanied by a port officer) shall approach the vessel on the windward side and within speaking distance; he shall go on board, if he thinks himself warranted to do so from the information obtained by him from the pilot, master, or any person on board; and as soon as possible after arriving on board he shall require and obtain from the pilot the answers furnished by the master or other officer in command, as above provided.

Health officer may go on board in certain cases without waiting for pilot.

24. If the Health Officer shall arrive alongside of a vessel before the arrival of a pilot on board, he may require from the master or other officer in command all the necessary information, and upon being satisfied of the sanitary condition of the vessel and persons therein, he may go on board without waiting for the arrival of the pilot.

Signal to be made that vessel is free from quarantine.

25. If the Health Officer shall determine that the vessel does not require to perform quarantine, he shall admit her immediately to pratique, and the pilot may bring her to anchor in the harbour; and whenever pratique shall have been granted, communication with the vessel shall be permitted, and the same shall be announced by means of a red flag hoisted at the fore, which flag shall, if required, be furnished by the port officer for that purpose.

Pilot in certain cases may bring vessel to anchor before pratique obtained, but communication forbidden until pratique.

26. Whenever the Health Officer, either from the violence of the weather or from any other circumstance of "force majeure," shall be prevented from going alongside of the vessel, and when the answers of the master or other officer in command as above provided shall satisfy the pilot that there is no contagious or infectious disease on board, the pilot may, upon his own responsibility, bring the vessel to anchor in the harbour; but communication with such vessel shall not be allowed until she shall have been admitted to pratique by the Health Officer, as hereinbefore provided.

Temporary quarantine to be ordered; Governor may order it to be continued.

27. If the master or other officer in command shall, in answer to the questions hereinbefore provided, report to the pilot, or if the Health Officer shall, after investigation, believe that a contagious or infectious disease exists on board, or existed on board within 21 days previously, or that the vessel did within the said period communicate (otherwise than by signal) with any vessel or place where there was any such disease, the pilot, or, if the pilot is not on board, the Health Officer, shall immediately cause a yellow flag to be hoisted at the fore, and the vessel shall thereupon be put in quarantine temporarily at the roadstead of Port Louis, and the Health Officer shall immediately apprise the Colonial Secretary and the Chief Medical Officer of the causes which led to the imposition of such temporary quarantine, in order that the Governor may, as speedily as possible, determine as to continuing the quarantine in respect of the vessel, the individuals on board, or the effects on board, and may direct any precautionary measures which he may deem necessary.

Continued quarantine to be performed in manner specified.

28. When the Governor shall direct the continuance of such quarantine, it shall be performed in manner following; that is to say,

1st. If the vessel contains passengers or immigrants, she shall (except in the case after provided) proceed immediately to the quarantine station at Flat Island, if the disease with which she is supposed to be infected be cholera, and to the quarantine at Cannoniers' Point if it be any other disease.

2d. In either case, the vessel shall proceed to the anchorage at the quarantine station, and such of her passengers and crew as are ill of the disease with which she is supposed to be infected, and all her immigrants, shall then be landed and placed in the quarantine station.

3d. After such landing, the vessel shall (weather permitting) be ordered by the Surgeon Superintendent to proceed, and shall proceed, to the roadstead of Port Louis, where she shall perform quarantine at anchor for the same time as shall be fixed for the quarantine of the passengers, immigrants, or crew landed from her at the quarantine station; and in the event of any fresh case of infectious disease occurring during such time, the vessel shall be dealt with as the circumstances require, with reference to the provisions of this Ordinance, regarding the landing of the diseased persons and the quarantine of the vessel respectively; and after the termination of her quarantine the vessel shall again be inspected by the Health Officer, with the view of being admitted to pratique or ordered to continue quarantine, as the case may be.

4th. Such vessels not carrying passengers or immigrants as require to perform quarantine, shall land any of their crew who may be affected with contagious or infectious disease; and the

the vessel shall perform quarantine at the roadstead of Port Louis, for such periods respectively as shall be fixed by the Governor, and published in regulations framed in virtue of the powers herein contained.

Appendix, No. 16.

5th. In case any vessel shall be unable to proceed to the quarantine station to which she may have been ordered, or in case any such vessel shall have been unable to land her passengers or immigrants at such quarantine station (provided that in either case such inability shall have arisen from stress of weather or other "force majeure"), it shall be lawful for such vessel to anchor and remain in the roadstead of Port Louis for such limited time as circumstances may render necessary.

29. Every vessel performing quarantine in the roadstead of Port Louis shall, during the whole continuance of such quarantine, display a yellow flag at the fore, and shall, immediately on such quarantine being commenced, be guarded by two or more sanitary guards, who shall remain on board, and by one or more guard boats to be furnished by the harbour-master or other officer appointed by the Governor as before provided; and every such vessel shall take up the position appointed for her by the harbour-master or other officer aforesaid, and shall, on his requisition, remove to any other part of the said anchorage which he may appoint; and every vessel which shall be in such quarantine in consequence of inability to proceed to the proper quarantine station, or to land her immigrants or passengers there, shall leave the said anchorage and proceed to the said station whenever the harbour-master or other officer aforesaid shall order the same to be done.

Vessels in quarantine in roadstead to be guarded, and to remain where ordered by harbour master.

30. All vessels coming to Mauritius with immigrants shall call on their way at the quarantine station at Flat Island, with a view to examination and quarantine, if such shall be required.

Vessels with immigrants to call at Flat Island.

31. The Surgeon Superintendent at the said quarantine station shall approach all such vessels. He shall approach to leeward of the vessel when the station is in quarantine, otherwise he shall approach to windward; and in either case he shall lay off at speaking distance from the vessel, with which he shall not come into actual contact until he shall have learned that a necessity exists for placing such vessel in quarantine.

To be visited by Surgeon Superintendent.

32. If it shall be the opinion of such Surgeon Superintendent that cholera exists on board the vessel, or that it existed therein within 21 days previous to her arrival at the quarantine station, or that the vessel did, within the said period, communicate otherwise than by signal with a vessel or place where such disease existed, he shall order such vessel to come to anchor at the usual spot, for the purpose of landing her immigrants and such of her passengers and crew as may be ill of cholera at the time; and the said immigrants, passengers, and crew shall perform quarantine temporarily at the quarantine station, and the vessel, if bound to Mauritius, shall perform quarantine temporarily at the roadstead of Port Louis upon the order of the Surgeon Superintendent, who shall, as soon as possible, apprise the Colonial Secretary and the Chief Medical Officer thereof, in order that the Governor may determine as to continuing the quarantine in the manner hereinbefore provided regarding vessels arriving at the said roadstead.

Temporary quarantine to be ordered in certain cases by Surgeon Superintendent. Governor may order it to be continued.

33. If such Surgeon Superintendent shall be satisfied that a necessity does not exist for placing the vessel in quarantine, he shall grant permission to proceed to and cast anchor at the roadstead of Port Louis, and on arrival there the vessel shall be visited by the Health Officer, who shall examine whether she may be admitted to pratique or not, and act thereupon as in regard to other vessels arriving at the said roadstead, it being provided that pratique shall not be granted to any vessel by the said Surgeon Superintendent, but only by the Health Officer.

Surgeon Superintendent may grant permission to proceed to roadstead.

34. When the state of the weather or surf at Flat Island is such that the Surgeon Superintendent cannot go afloat, he shall signify the same to the vessel by hoisting a white flag with a blue cross in a conspicuous place on the southern side of the said island, in which case the vessel may proceed to the roadstead at Port Louis, to be there examined and dealt with as in the case of other vessels arriving at such roadstead.

He shall signal when he cannot go afloat.

35. All masters or other officers in command, and all surgeons of vessels which shall have sailed from a place where a contagious disease prevailed, or which shall have communicated otherwise than by signal with any vessel or place in which a contagious disease existed, shall be bound, under pain of a fine, which shall not be less than 20*l.* nor exceed 200*l.*, to make a true declaration thereof to the pilot and the Health Officer or Surgeon Superintendent who shall come alongside or on board such vessel.

Officers of vessels to make declarations under penalties.

36. All masters or other officers in command, and all surgeons of vessels, convicted of having knowingly had a contagious disease on board, and of not having made the declaration prescribed, or of having employed any means for concealing from the inspection of the Health Officer, or Surgeon Superintendent, individuals afflicted with contagious disease, shall be punished by a fine which shall not be less than 40*l.* nor exceed 400*l.*, or by an imprisonment which shall not be less than three months nor longer than one year, and in aggravated cases these penalties may be accumulated.

Officers of vessels concealing contagious diseases to be punished.

37. Every surgeon of a vessel, convicted of having concealed from the master or other officer in command the existence of contagious disease in any one or more of the persons on board, and every Health Officer or Surgeon Superintendent or pilot convicted of having, through connivance with the master or surgeon of the vessel, or otherwise, knowingly

Surgeon and Health Officer concealing contagious disease to be punished.

Appendix, No. 16. allowed the introduction into any port in Mauritius of any vessel having a contagious disease on board, shall be subjected to the penalties mentioned in the preceding article.

Persons on board must answer questions under penalties.

38. The master and all persons on board of any vessel arriving off Mauritius and Flat Island are bound to answer the questions and inquiries which may be made to them by the Health Officer, Surgeon Superintendent, or pilot, respectively, and every person who shall refuse to answer, or shall answer falsely or evasively shall be liable to a fine which shall not exceed 200*l*.

Disposal of fines and forfeitures.

39. The produce of the fines and confiscations which shall be pronounced in virtue of the present Ordinance shall be paid over, the one-half equally between the informer and the person by whom the contravention shall have been proved, and wholly to the latter when there shall have been no informer: the other half of the fines shall be paid into the Colonial Treasury.

Meaning of terms contagious and infectious.

40. The expressions contagious and infectious disease in this law shall be taken to mean any and every disease which may be communicated from one person to another through the medium of touch or by near approach, and shall include the cholera morbus.

Governor may make and publish regulations.

41. There shall be made and published by proclamation from the Governor, in Executive Council, as often as circumstances may require, regulations, concerning the military and police force at the quarantine stations, and any other matters concerning any of the provisions of this Ordinance, which regulations may declare that any infraction thereof shall be punished by a fine, which shall not exceed 50*l*., and by an imprisonment not exceeding three months, accumulatively or separately.

Promulgation.

42. This Ordinance shall take effect from the date to be fixed by proclamation of the Governor.

Passed in Council, at Port Louis, Island of Mauritius, this 6th February 1857.

(signed) *R. Y. Cummins,*
Secretary to the Council.

SCHEDULE.

Questions.

Answers.

What is the name of the vessel and the name of the commander or master?

Are you the commander or master?

To what port does she belong?

From whence do you come?

To what place are you bound?

At what ports or places have you touched on your voyage since you left the port of your lading?

What vessels have you had intercourse or communication with on your passage, and from whence did they come?

Did the cholera, plague, or any epidemic, infectious, or contagious disease or distemper prevail in any degree at the place from whence you sailed, or on board any vessel with which you had personal intercourse or communication on your passage, or at any of the places at which you have touched?

If at any, say at which, and when?

Are there any persons on board your ship suffering under cholera or any infectious epidemic or contagious disease, or have any persons died or been ill of a disease of that nature during the voyage? And, if any, what number? And if any have died or been ill of such disease, were their bedding and clothes destroyed?

Have you any and what bill of health?

Appendix, No. 17.

Appendix, No. 17.

(L. S.)
J. M. Higginson.

ORDINANCE No. 21, of 1857. Enacted by the Governor of Mauritius, with the Advice and Consent of the Council of Government thereof, for rendering compulsory the Education of Children in the Colony.—14 July 1857.

WHEREAS there is in the Colony a large and increasing number of children growing up in ignorance and vice, whose education would be a blessing to themselves and a great advantage to the community:

And whereas the measures hitherto taken for promoting the education of children in the Colony have, to a great extent, been frustrated by the apathy of their parents and guardians, and other causes:

His Excellency the Governor in Council has ordered, and does hereby order:

1. From and after the date when this Ordinance shall come into operation there shall be established, throughout Mauritius, a system of compulsory education of the nature and for the periods hereinafter provided; that is to say, Compulsory education to be introduced.

2. All boys in the said island, between six and 12, and all girls therein, between six and 10 years of age, inclusive, shall be obliged to attend school as hereinafter specified: Provided that such compulsory education shall not extend to children residing more than one and a half English miles from any school to be erected or recognised in terms hereof, or to children whose parents or guardians shall satisfy the inspector of schools to be appointed under this Ordinance, for the district where such children reside, that they are receiving otherwise than by attendance at such school, education at least equivalent to that herein provided: And also provided, that no child shall come under the provisions of this Ordinance until he or she shall have resided in the Colony for the period of six months. All children between certain ages to be educated.

3. The education required by this Ordinance shall include morality, order, and cleanliness, with reading, writing and arithmetic, and such industrial training as may, from time to time, be ordered by the Governor. The girls shall also be taught needlework and domestic economy. The education required shall include morality, &c.

Religious instruction shall not (except as hereinafter provided) be given during the time set apart for compulsory education in any school to be erected or recognised for such education in terms of this Ordinance; and no child shall at any time attend religious instruction to be given in any such school against the wish of his or her parents or guardians.

The French language shall be the medium of instruction; but in every school English shall be taught.

4. The hours during which, and the children to whom each of these branches of education shall be conveyed shall be determined by the head master of the school, under correction by the inspector of schools for the district. The hours, &c., for education to be fixed by master and inspector.

5. The attendance at school shall be three hours daily, during five days of the week, except such holidays as are recognised in the Government schools, and in any regulations to be published under the powers hereinafter specified; and except when the child is unable to attend from sickness or any other cause recognised by the inspector for the district, such inability being always proved to the satisfaction of the master. Attendance to be three hours daily, except in case of sickness, &c.

It shall be in the power of the superintendent of schools to fix a time during the hours of attendance aforesaid for the attendance of religious instructors of any denomination, and the giving of religious instruction by them in each school: Provided that such time shall not exceed one hour in each week for the instructors, one or more of each denomination; and that the instruction to be given by them shall be in accordance with the provisions thereof. Hours for religious instruction to be allowed.

6. In case any child shall, during more than a week in each year, be absent from school, without sufficient cause, as above provided, such child shall continue at school after the ordinary period of his or her other compulsory education for a time equivalent to such absence: Provided that such additional period shall not exceed 18 months in the case of any boy, and 12 months in the case of any girl. In case of absence, period to be made up.

7. In case any child shall, during the period above provided for his or her compulsory education, be withheld from school by his or her parents or guardians, or by any person or persons with their connivance, or by any person or persons whatsoever, such parents or guardians, or other person or persons respectively, shall, for the first offence, be taken bound by the district magistrate, upon their own recognisances, for a sum not less than 2*l.* or more than 5*l.* sterling, to abstain from all interference with the regular education of such child during the whole remaining period of his or her compulsory education; and any of the said individuals who shall again interfere therewith shall forfeit the whole or part of their said recognisances, as the district magistrate may deem proper; and, in case of non-payment, the magistrate shall have power to impose imprisonment for a term not exceeding one month. Persons keeping child from school to be bound on recognisances.

Appendix, No. 17.

And, on repeating the offence, to be fined or imprisoned.

School-fees to be paid.

Master or mistress of child in service to be liable for school fees.

School fees may be recovered before magistrate.

Magistrate may release poor defendant from paying fees.

Prescription of claim for school fees.

Master or mistress of orphan child held to be its guardian.

Governor in Executive Council may erect schools.

Governor in Executive Council may recognise schools for compulsory education.

Inspectors of schools to be appointed.

Governor may appoint collectors of educational statistics, which must be furnished under penalties.

Governor in Executive Council may pass regulations.

Prosecutions for penalties.

8. In case of repetition of the offence described in the preceding section, it shall be in the power of the magistrate, in addition to such forfeiture or imprisonment, to impose a fine not exceeding 2 *l.* sterling, or imprisonment for a term not exceeding one month, in case of non-payment.

9. The parents or guardians of every child educated in terms of this Ordinance shall pay school fees at a rate not exceeding 6 *d.* per month for each child; and in case either the child, or his or her parents or guardians, are receiving poor relief, such fees shall be paid by the Poor Relief Board of the district.

10. When any child, subject to compulsory education, is in service, the master or mistress (not being the master's wife) of such child shall be liable, in the first instance, for the school fees aforesaid, which may by them be retained from the child's wages: Provided that not more than two months' fees shall be retained from one month's wages; and that where wages are payable at longer intervals than one month, there shall not be retained from each payment more than the fees applicable to education for the corresponding period.

If such child does not receive wages in money, his or her school fees shall be paid by his or her father or mother if alive in the Colony; and, if not, the said fees shall be borne by Government.

11. The school fees may be recovered from the persons liable therefor by summary process before the district magistrate at the instance of the schoolmaster or the inspector of schools for the district; and in cases where any poor relief committee is liable for such fees as aforesaid, such process may be directed against the collector or overseer of poor for the district.

12. The magistrate before whom any process for recovery of school fees shall be brought may give judgment for the defendant if he shall be satisfied that the defendant is unable from poverty to pay the sum demanded.

13. Action shall not be competent for more than four months' fees of each child, or for any fees which shall have been due longer than six months.

14. The master or mistress aforesaid of any child whose parents are dead or out of the Colony, and who has no legal guardian in the Colony, shall be held to be guardian of such child in so far as regards the obligations for securing the regular attendance of such child at school. Art. 13 of Ordinance No. 21, of 1853, is repealed in so far as it might be held to provide that the Protector of Immigrants should be held as the guardian of any orphan immigrant under the provisions of this Ordinance.

15. It shall be in the power of the Governor in Executive Council to take measures for erecting, for the purposes of this Ordinance, schools and schoolmasters' houses, with playgrounds and offices in proper places, and also to allot adequate salaries to the masters and mistresses of such school: Provided that in every such school in which girls shall be taught, there shall be a schoolmistress.

16. It shall be in the power of the Governor in Executive Council, upon a report from the superintendent of schools, to recognise any public or private school in the Colony as a school for compulsory education in terms of this Ordinance, and notice of every such recognition shall forthwith be given in the "Government Gazette:" Provided that no school shall be so recognised unless with consent of the proprietors or managers thereof, and unless three hours daily during the days specified in Section 5 are set apart therein for education of the nature before described.

Every such recognition of any school may be recalled by the Governor in Executive Council.

17. It shall be in the power of the Governor in Executive Council, to appoint districts for inspectors of schools in terms of this Ordinance, and to determine what salaries shall be given to each inspector; and the Governor shall have power to appoint qualified persons to be inspectors of schools in such districts.

18. It shall be in the power of the Governor from time to time to appoint qualified officers to collect statistical information regarding the educational condition of the Colony; and all persons therein shall be obliged to furnish such information regarding their own children and wards, and any young persons under their charge or in their employment; and all persons refusing or neglecting to do so, or giving false information upon any of the said subjects, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding 5 *l.* sterling, and in case of nonpayment, to imprisonment for a period not exceeding two months; which respective penalties may be repeated *toties quoties* in case of continued refusal or neglect.

19. It shall be in the power of the Governor in Executive Council, to pass regulations for carrying out the object of this Ordinance; and such regulations, on being published in the "Government Gazette," shall have the same effect as if they had been verbatim embodied therein.

20. All prosecutions for penalties under this Ordinance, shall be instituted and carried on by the superintendent of schools, or by the inspector of schools for the district, or by any person acting under their authority respectively.

21. This

21. This Ordinance shall take effect when confirmed and allowed by Her Majesty.

Promulgation.

Passed in Council at Port Louis, Island of Mauritius, this 14th day of July 1857.

(signed) *R. Y. Cummins,*
Secretary to the Council.

Appendix, No. 18.

Appendix, No. 18.

(L. S.).
J. M. Higginson.

ORDINANCE No. 22 of 1857. Enacted by the Governor of Mauritius, with the Advice and Consent of the Council of Government thereof. To amend the Law relative to the Engaging of newly-arrived Immigrants.—[14 July 1857.]

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the law relative to the engaging of newly-arrived immigrants in excess of the number to which their employers may be entitled on payment of only the ordinary stamp duty on engagements of "New Immigrants":

Be it therefore enacted by his Excellency the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Council of Government, as follows:

1. Articles 6 and 7 of Ordinance No. 15 of 1854, shall be and are hereby repealed, and the following provisions shall come in lieu thereof:

2. Whenever any employer wishes to engage any newly-arrived male immigrants in excess of the number to which he may be entitled under the regulations at the time existing, he shall, before such immigrants shall leave the dépôt to be engaged, pay, to the protector of immigrants, the passage-money, together with all other expenses chargeable in respect of such immigrants, and also the passage-money and other expenses chargeable for and in respect of such proportion of females as, according to regulations at the time existing, shall be required to accompany the said male immigrants from India; and such employer shall, at the time of making such payments, be entitled to demand and receive from the Protector of Immigrants, a certificate that such payments have been made, in which certificate shall be specified the amount paid, and the names and numbers of the several male immigrants in respect of whom such payments shall have been made.

3. Every newly-arrived immigrant for whom the Protector shall have received the passage-money and expenses aforesaid, shall be considered as introduced at the expense of the person who paid the same, and as not forming a part of the contingent of immigrants whose introduction is provided for by the Council of Government.

And all moneys received under the provisions of the preceding article shall be applied, as speedily as possible, to the introduction of additional immigrants over and above those who may be introduced at the cost of the public treasury.

4. The person named in any such certificate as having paid the passage-money and other expenses as aforesaid, of any immigrant named therein, shall be entitled to engage and re-engage such immigrant free of stamp duty, upon production of such certificate to the stipendiary magistrate before whom any such engagement shall be made.

5. Whenever any immigrant who shall have been engaged under the provisions of this Ordinance shall not serve the full term of his "industrial residence" under engagement with the person by whom the passage-money and other expenses as aforesaid shall have been paid, such person shall be entitled to claim and receive from the Government any sum or sums of money which shall have been paid by any other person, by way of stamp duty upon the engagement of such immigrant, or any sum of money which shall have been paid by the immigrant for the redemption of any part of his term of "industrial residence" under the provisions of Ordinance No. 21 of 1854.

6. It shall be lawful for the Governor, from time to time by proclamation, to be published in the "Government Gazette," to make regulations for ensuring the operation and effect of the present Ordinance, within the intent and meaning of the same.

7. The present Ordinance shall take effect on and from the 1st day of August 1857.

Passed in Council at Port Louis, Island of Mauritius, this 14th day of July 1857.

(signed) *R. Y. Cummins,*
Secretary to the Council.

Appendix, No. 19.

Appendix, No. 19.

(L. S.)
J. M. Higginson.

ORDINANCE No. 23 of 1857. Enacted by the Governor of Mauritius with the Advice and Consent of the Council of Government thereof. To amend the Law as to the introduction and engagement of Immigrants from territories not under the Government of the East India Company.--[7 August 1857.]

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the law as to the introduction and engagement of immigrants from territories not under the government of the East India Company.

Be it therefore enacted by his Excellency the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Council of Government, as follows :

Immigrants from places not within the East India Company's territories, to be introduced and to engage for three years.

1. From and after the date when the present Ordinance shall come into operation, the introduction of immigrants from any place or places not within the territories under the government of the Honourable the East India Company shall be conducted in the manner hereinafter provided ; and no immigrant from any place or places aforesaid shall be introduced except in terms of the provisions of this Ordinance. The immigrants so introduced shall, under the conditions and in the manner hereinafter specified, be competent to enter into contracts of service, as defined in the Order in Council of 7th September 1838, for any period not exceeding three years.

Licence to be obtained for vessel introducing such immigrants.

2. Any person desirous of introducing to the Colony such immigrants may, previous to the departure of the vessel from the Colony, if such vessel shall be chartered in the Colony, apply to the Governor for a licence authorising such introduction ; which licence the Governor shall have power to grant under such conditions as to him may seem proper.

In case the vessel in which it is desired to introduce such immigrant, shall be chartered at any place out of the Colony, such licence may be granted by any British Consul, agent, or Emigration Agent, at or near such place whom the Governor shall authorise to grant the same, and every such licence shall be granted under such conditions as the Governor may direct.

Every licence to be granted under the provisions hereof shall be limited to the vessel and to the place or places which shall be specified therein, and shall require to be renewed upon every successive voyage.

Penalties to be imposed on persons introducing such immigrants against provisions hereof.

3. In the event of any immigrants or intended immigrants being introduced into the Colony or being brought into any roadstead or harbour thereof, from any place or places not within the territories aforesaid, without a previous licence being obtained therefor as aforesaid, or without the conditions being fulfilled under which such licence (if obtained) shall have been granted, the master, owner, and agent of the ship respectively shall, for every immigrant introduced or brought as aforesaid, be liable to a fine not exceeding 50 l., or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months : Provided that such imprisonment shall not in any case exceed the period of three years. The said penalties may be inflicted cumulatively on a repetition of the offence.

Governor may prevent immigrants from landing if brought against provisions hereof. And if landed, they cannot engage for more than one year.

4. In the event specified in the preceding section, it shall moreover, be lawful to the Governor to prevent any such immigrants or intended immigrants from being landed upon any part of the Colony, and in case any of them shall have been so landed, it shall be lawful to him to direct measures to be taken at the expense of the owner, agent, or master of the ship for having them sent back to the place from which they were taken : Provided that if the Governor shall allow any such immigrants to land or remain in the Colony, they shall not be competent to enter into contracts of service for a longer period than one year.

Protector to examine as to accommodation, &c., of immigrants, and to grant certificate.

5. On the arrival of any ship or vessel at Mauritius with immigrants or intended immigrants brought from any port or place not within the territories aforesaid, and immediately after such ship or vessel shall have received pratique, the Protector of Immigrants shall repair on board and shall ascertain, as far as possible, by personal inspection and examination whether the provisions of this Ordinance and of any regulations to be framed in virtue hereof, and the conditions of the licence aforesaid for such vessel (where such licence shall have been obtained), have been duly complied with ; and if he shall be satisfied that such is the case he shall without delay grant a certificate to that effect : If he shall not be satisfied thereof, he shall immediately report the matter to the Governor, under whose directions such certificate shall be granted or withheld as to him may seem fit.

After certificate, immigrants to be delivered to Protector.

6. As soon as practicable after the said certificate (if granted) shall have been obtained, the master of the vessel shall land such of the immigrants therein as are intended for introduction into the Colony, and shall deliver them to the Protector of Immigrants, together with a sufficient quantity of good and wholesome provisions for their maintenance during the space of 48 hours next after their landing.

7. All

7. All such immigrants shall (except as hereinafter provided) remain under the charge of the Protector of Immigrants until they shall have procured employment, and no contract of service shall be entered into with any immigrant arriving at Mauritius until after he shall have been 48 hours on shore, or until he shall have obtained from the Protector of Immigrants a ticket of registration as hereinafter provided. Every contract of service made before that time shall be null and void to all intents and purposes.

8. The Protector of Immigrants shall keep a separate register in the form in the Schedule (A.) hereunto annexed for the immigrants introduced into the Colony under the provisions of this Ordinance. A ticket shall also be given to each of such immigrants in the form in the Schedule (B.) hereunto annexed, in which shall be specified the period for which the said immigrant is competent to engage.

9. It shall not be lawful for the said Protector to issue any ticket to any such immigrant, unless proof shall have previously been given to him that the person desiring to engage such immigrant has paid or satisfied the master, owner, or agent of the vessel in which the said immigrant was brought, for the passage money and all other expenses due in respect of such immigrant, as the same shall be fixed in the manner hereinafter provided, or unless the said master, owner, or agent shall consent to such ticket being issued. But provided that the said Protector shall be entitled, and on application therefor shall be bound to issue, a ticket authorising an engagement for any period not exceeding one year to any immigrant who shall have been allowed to land or to remain in the Colony in terms of Art. 4, hereof, or who shall have been under charge of the said Protector as aforesaid, for any longer period than 14 days without having been engaged in terms of the preceding articles hereof.

10. In case any person shall have made arrangements with the master, owner, or agent of any vessel for the introduction of immigrants with a view to their engagement with himself in terms of this Ordinance, and in case any of the immigrants introduced in consequence of such arrangement shall be induced to engage with another person, such other person shall, in addition to the passage-money and all other expenses payable as aforesaid on account of the immigrants so to be engaged by him and previous to the issuing of a ticket as hereinaforesaid pay to the Protector 25 per cent. on the amount thereof; which 25 per cent. shall be paid by the Protector to the person by whom the aforesaid arrangement for the introduction of the said immigrants shall have been made: Provided that, previous to the departure of the vessel from the Colony for the purpose of bringing such immigrants, if the vessel shall be chartered there, or from any other place where she shall be chartered for the said purpose, such person shall have transmitted to the Protector of Immigrants a certificate signed by himself and by the master, owner, or agent of the vessel, as nearly as may be in the form of Schedule (C.) hereunto annexed: and also provided that the said Protector shall be satisfied from entries in the ship's books or any other evidence, that the immigrants in respect of whom the said 25 per cent. shall be claimed were embarked under the said arrangement on account of the person claiming the same.

11. The maximum sum which the master, owner, or agent of any vessel that shall have brought immigrants to Mauritius under the provisions of this Ordinance, may demand on account of passage-money, and all other expenses due for such immigrants, shall be determined according to a scale that shall be fixed by a committee composed of the Collector of Customs, the Protector of Immigrants, and the Harbour Master, and a member of the Chamber of Commerce, and of the Chamber of Agriculture respectively, to be named by the Governor, three members of which committee shall form a quorum; and which scale may by them be altered from time to time as occasion may require. Such scale shall, after having been approved by the Governor, be posted up in the Custom House, the Immigration Dépôt, and the Port Office, and be published in the "Government Gazette" for general information.

12. In the event of any immigrants being brought to this Colony from any port or place, the rate of passage-money from which, and other expenses which may be demanded on account of such immigrants shall not appear in the said scale, the said committee shall, as soon as may be after the arrival of the vessel in which such immigrants shall have come, fix and determine the amount of passage-money and other expenses aforesaid, and the amount so fixed shall not be subject to alteration or review by any court or tribunal whatever.

13. The passage-money and expenses aforesaid shall in no case be a debt recoverable from the immigrant, but shall be paid by the master with whom any such immigrant may first enter into a written contract of service.

14. The master of any ship or vessel by which immigrants shall have been brought to Mauritius from any port or place not within the territories aforesaid, who shall not have furnished to such immigrants during the voyage, a sufficient quantity of good and wholesome provisions and water, or who shall have in any way ill-treated any such immigrant while on board his vessel, shall incur a penalty not exceeding 50*l.*; and, in default of payment, shall be imprisoned for a period not exceeding 12 months; which punishments may be inflicted cumulatively, and may be doubled in aggravated cases, as well as on a repetition of the offence.

Appendix, No. 19.

Immigrants not to be engaged till they have been 48 hours on shore, and have obtained ticket of registration.

Immigrants to be registered and to get a registration ticket. Same schedule as already prepared.

Ticket not to be issued unless passage money, &c., has been arranged, except in certain cases.

Person who has made arrangement for introducing immigrants to receive 25 % on passage-money if they engage with another.

Amount of passage-money to be fixed and published.

Passage-money not so published to be determined by certain persons.

Passage-money, &c., not to be debt on immigrant.

Penalties to be imposed on master of vessel ill-treating immigrants.

Appendix, No. 19.

Penalties for unlawful detention of immigrants.

Existing law as to forfeiture and recovery of wages, annulling engagements, &c., extended to immigrants under this Ordinance.

Immigrants married in their own country may declare their marriages there.

One of the parties so married may make similar declaration.

Such declarations to be made before consular officers, &c.

Such declaration to be confirmed before Protector.

Certified copy of declaration *prima facie* proof.

Declarations of marriage to be delivered to Officer of Civil Status.

Existing law as to enticing wives of Indian immigrants to apply to immigrants under this Ordinance.

Governor may pass regulations.

Prosecutions in certain cases to be before district magistrates.

In certain other cases to be before Supreme Court.

15. Any person who shall unlawfully detain any immigrants, one or more, against their will, in any place within the Colony or dependencies, shall incur a penalty not exceeding 50% for every such immigrant, and another penalty of 5% for each month beyond the first month during which such detention may have been continued, and in default of payment, shall be imprisoned for a period not exceeding two years.

16. The provisions of any subsisting law relating to forfeitures of wages, rations and penalties incurred for unlicensed absences from work, and any law relating to the recovery of wages and arrears of wages, the providing of rations and medical treatment, and the annulling or cancelling of contracts of service, are hereby extended to immigrants engaged under the powers conferred by this Ordinance.

17. Any person intending to come to this Colony as an immigrant in terms of this Ordinance, and having been legally married according to the forms and ceremonies of his religion, or of the law of his domicile at the time of marriage, may go before any one of the persons hereinafter empowered to receive declarations of marriage, accompanied by his wife and children (if any) the issue of such marriage; and such intending immigrant and his wife may, in the presence of two witnesses, make a declaration before such person (in the form in the Schedule (D.) hereunto annexed), that they have been lawfully married according to the forms and ceremonies aforesaid; and that the children (if any) accompanying them are the lawful issue of such marriage; and such declaration shall be signed by the parties making the same, and by two witnesses thereto respectively, if able to write. If any of the said parties or witnesses are unable to write, they shall affix their marks to the said declaration, which shall in every case be attested by the person before whom it shall be made.

18. A similar declaration (according to the form in the Schedule (E.) hereunto annexed) may be made in the country from which such immigrant is embarked for introduction into this Colony, by one of the parties to any such marriage intending to proceed to the Colony to join the other party there.

19. Such declarations of marriage may be taken and made in the country aforesaid by or before any British consular officer therein when such country is not a dependency of the British Crown; or by or before any judge, magistrate, or justice of the peace when such country is a dependency aforesaid; and in either case by or before any Immigration Agent appointed by the Government for the place where such declaration shall be made.

20. Where any such declaration of marriage shall have been made as aforesaid, the parties therein declaring themselves to have been lawfully married, or the survivor of them in case the other shall have died in the interval, may appear before the Protector of Immigrants in this island, and may in his presence confirm the said declaration. And the Protector, if satisfied of the identity of the parties, and of the death of one of the parties, in case the declaration shall be made by the other as survivor, shall certify the fact of such confirmation upon the face of the declaration.

21. A certified copy of every declaration of marriage so made and confirmed shall be deemed for all purposes sufficient *prima facie* evidence of the marriage of the parties, and of the legitimacy of the children (if any) named therein.

22. The originals of all declarations of marriage made and confirmed as hereinbefore mentioned, shall be deposited at the office of the Protector of Immigrants, who shall, in the month of January in each year, deliver over to the Officer of the Civil Status of Port Louis, all the said declarations of marriage which shall have been deposited in his office during the preceding year, such declarations having been first properly bound up together in a book. The said book shall be filed and kept of record in the office of the said Officer of the Civil Status.

23. The provisions of any existing law as to the trial and punishment of persons who shall entice or harbour the wives of Indian Immigrants are hereby extended to persons who shall entice or harbour the wives of immigrants introduced in terms of this Ordinance.

24. The Governor in Executive Council shall have power to pass and publish in the "Government Gazette," regulations for carrying out the objects of this Ordinance, which regulations shall have the same force and effect as if *verbatim* embodied in this Ordinance, and in any licence to be granted as herein aforesaid.

25. All contraventions of the provisions in this Ordinance contained, for which there is imposed a penalty not exceeding that which may be inflicted by a district magistrate, shall, if committed within the limits of any district in the Colony, be prosecuted and tried before the magistrate of such district.

And all contraventions thereof for which there is imposed a penalty as aforesaid, if committed anywhere beyond the limits of any district in the Colony, shall be prosecuted and tried before one of the district magistrates of Port Louis.

All contraventions of the said provisions, wherever they shall have been committed, for which the penalty exceeds that which may be inflicted by a district magistrate, shall be prosecuted and tried before the Supreme Court of this Colony.

27. This Ordinance shall commence and take effect when confirmed and allowed by Promulgation.
Her Majesty.

R. Y. Cummins,
Secretary to the Council.

Register of Immigrants under Ordinance No. 23 of 1857.

[illegible]

Ticket of Immigrant under Ordinance No. 23 of 1857.

1. Name of immigrant.
2. Number.
3. { Name of father.
Name of mother.
4. Sex.
5. Age.
6. Stature.
7. Marks.
8. Caste.
9. Native country and village.
10. Name of vessel and captain by which introduced.
11. Whether accompanied by children, and, if so, their names, sexes, and ages.
12. Time during which competent to engage.
13. Remarks.

Protector of Immigrants.

Port Louis, Mauritius, day of 185 .
 WE *A. B. (designation)* and *C. D. master (or owner or agent)* of the (*name of vessel*) of (*port of registry*), certify that an arrangement was on the day of entered into between (*mention by whom arrangement made*) for the introduction into this Colony in the said vessel of (*mention number*) male and (*mention number*) female immigrants on account of the said *A. B.*

E. F., Protector of Immigrants.

Appendix, No. 20.

Appendix, No. 20.

(L.S.)

J. M. Higginson.

ORDINANCE No. 26 of 1857. Enacted by the Governor of Mauritius, with the advice and consent of the Council of Government thereof, for preventing the Illegal Introduction of Indian Immigrants.—[2 September 1857.]

WHEREAS the laws at present existing in the Colony for preventing the introduction of immigrants from India, in contravention of the regulations thereupon prescribed by the Government of the Colony and the Government of India, are insufficient: and whereas it is expedient to make effectual provision for the prevention and punishment of such illegal introduction:

Be it therefore enacted by his Excellency the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Council of Government, as follows:—

Penalty to be imposed on persons aiding or abetting in the emigration of natives of India except from certain places.

1. From and after the date when this Ordinance shall come into operation, every person who shall knowingly aid or abet any native of India in emigrating from any place within the territories under the Government of the Honourable East India Company (except Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay, and any other port or place from which such emigration may hereafter be allowed by the said Honourable Company), for the purpose of being employed as a labourer within this Colony, or any dependency thereof, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding 20*l.* sterling for every native aforesaid who shall have so emigrated, and shall have arrived in this Colony, or any dependency thereof, and in default of payment shall be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months.

Penalty to be imposed on masters of vessels conveying emigrants without licence.

2. From and after the date aforesaid, the master of any ship or vessel in which any emigrant being a native of India shall have been conveyed to the Colony, or any dependency thereof, from Calcutta, Madras, or Bombay, or any other port or place aforesaid, for the purpose of labouring for hire in the Colony, or any dependency thereof, without a licence authorising the conveyance of such emigrant in such ship or vessel having been obtained from the Government of the Presidency in which the port or place is situated from which such immigrant shall be conveyed, shall be liable in a fine not exceeding 20*l.* sterling for every immigrant so illegally conveyed, and in default of payment shall be liable to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 12 months.

This Ordinance not to apply to seamen, menial servants, or Indians emigrating at their own expense.

3. Provided always, that nothing in this Ordinance contained shall be taken to apply to any native seaman who shall, of his own free will, contract to navigate any vessel from any port or place within the territories of the Honourable East India Company to the said Colony, or any dependency thereof, or who shall embark on board any such vessel in pursuance of such contract, or to any person who shall embark under a contract as a menial servant, or to any person who shall embark on board any such vessel as a *bonâ fide* passenger, paying his own passage-money and other expenses, or the wife or child of such person.

Steps to be taken on illegal introduction of natives of India and liabilities of masters of vessels in such cases.

4. Whenever any native of India shall be introduced into the Colony, or any dependency thereof, in the manner hereinbefore set forth, it shall be in the power of the Governor to direct that he be delivered, and he shall accordingly be delivered to the Protector of Immigrants, by whom such steps shall be taken as the Governor may direct for the protection of such native of India; and in the event of the Governor directing that he shall be sent to India, the expense of so doing shall be recoverable from the master of the vessel, or any other person by whom the said Indian may have been so introduced as aforesaid.

Promulgation.

5. The present Ordinance shall take effect on and from the 5th day of September 1857.

Passed in Council at Port Louis, Island of Mauritius, this 2d day of September, 1857.

R. Y. Cummins,
Secretary to the Council.

Appendix, No. 21.

(L.S.)

Appendix, No. 21.

J. M. Higginson.

ORDINANCE No. 27 of 1857. Enacted by the Governor of Mauritius, with the advice and consent of the Council of Government thereof, for more effectually securing the Observance of the Law concerning Quarantine.—[10 September 1857.]

WHEREAS it is expedient to make additional provision for securing the observance of the laws regarding quarantine;

Be it therefore enacted by his Excellency the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Council of Government, as follows:—

1. When

1. When any vessel shall come to Mauritius, any person who, before such vessel shall have entered any harbour hereof, shall approach within 100 yards of such vessel, and who shall within 28 days thereafter land upon, or come within low-water mark of the shore of any part of the island or dependencies aforesaid, or enter any harbour, creek, or river thereof, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding 50*l.* sterling, or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months: Provided that these provisions shall not extend to any authorised pilot or health officer, or the crews of their respective boats approaching such vessel, in conformity with the law regarding quarantine at the time existing, or to any person who shall have approached such vessel after pratique shall have been obtained therefor.

Penalty imposed on persons coming to the Colony after having been within 100 yards of vessel.

2. When any vessel shall come to Mauritius, any person who, having been on board thereof, or of any boat belonging thereto, shall, before pratique shall have been obtained therefor, land on any part of the said island within the period of 28 days after having been on board as aforesaid, or shall within the said period enter any harbour, creek, or river thereto belonging, or approach by sea within low-water mark of any part of the shore of the said island, except for the purpose of undergoing quarantine in terms of the law relative thereto at the time existing, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding 50*l.* sterling, or an imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months.

Penalty on persons coming from vessel before pratique.

3. Whenever any person shall, in contravention of any of the provisions hereinbefore contained, enter any harbour, creek, or river belonging to the said island, or approach by sea within low-water mark of any part thereof, it shall be in the power of any constable or officer of police, or any officer of the harbour department, without any warrant, to apprehend such person, and any boat or other conveyance on or in which he may be, and all articles which may be in his possession at the time, and to detain him and them at a safe distance from any other person whatever, until it shall be ascertained whether quarantine therefor shall be required.

Police and officers of harbour department to seize in cases of contravention.

4. Any officer making any seizure in terms of the preceding Article, shall, as soon as may be thereafter, inform the harbour-master thereof, by whom the same shall be communicated to the health officer of Port Louis, or chief medical officer, in order that immediate steps may be taken for having such person, and any boat or conveyance, or other articles aforesaid put in quarantine, or dealt with otherwise according to law. And such officer, and all persons in the boat with him at the time, shall abstain from any communication with any person on shore for such period thereafter as may be prescribed by such authority.

Such officers to detain person, &c., seized.

5. All contraventions of the provisions contained in this Ordinance, or in the Ordinance No. 3 of 1857, intituled "An Ordinance to amend the Laws concerning Quarantine," for which there is imposed a penalty not exceeding that which may be inflicted by a district magistrate, may be prosecuted either before the magistrate of the district within which the same were committed, or before the district magistrate of Port Louis.

Contraventions to be prosecuted before certain district magistrates.

And any contraventions whatever of the Ordinances aforesaid may be prosecuted and tried before such district magistrates respectively: Provided that in any cases to be so prosecuted and tried, the public prosecutor shall restrict the penalty to be imposed therefor to such as may be imposed by a district magistrate, without reference to any forfeiture which may also be incident to such contravention, which said restriction the said public prosecutor is hereby authorised to make.

6. The present Ordinance shall come into operation on and from the 12th of September 1857.

Passed in Council at Port Louis, Island of Mauritius, this 10th day of September 1857.

R. Y. Cummins,
Secretary to the Council.

Published by Order of his Excellency the Governor,
Humphry Sandwith,
Colonial Secretary.

Appendix, No. 22.

Appendix, No. 22.

(L. S.)
J. M. Higginson.

ORDINANCE No. 28 of 1857. Enacted by the Governor of Mauritius, with the advice and consent of the Council of Government thereof, to Repeal Ordinance No. 10 of 1856, and to apply certain Sums out of the Surplus Revenue to the Construction of Public Works, and to the Service of Indian Immigration.—[10 September 1857.]

WHEREAS it is expedient to repeal Ordinance, No. 10 of 1856, intituled, “ An Ordinance to apply a sum not exceeding 17,167*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.* sterling out of the funds accrued from the surplus revenue of past years, to the service of the year 1857,” and in lieu thereof to pass the following Ordinance for the purpose of applying a portion of the funds accrued from the surplus revenue of past years to the construction of works of uncontroverted public utility and also to the service of immigration;

Be it therefore enacted by his Excellency the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Council of Government as follows:

Governor authorised to apply 61,417*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.* to public works.
And 21,000*l.* to service of immigration.
Repeal of previous law.
Promulgation.

1. It shall be lawful for the Governor to expend a sum not exceeding 61,417*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.* sterling, out of the funds accrued from the surplus revenue of past years upon the construction of the public works and buildings enumerated in the accompanying Schedule, and which have been duly sanctioned by the Council of Government, also a further sum not exceeding 21,000*l.* sterling to be applied to the service of immigration from India to the Colony.
2. Ordinance No. 10 of 1856, is hereby repealed.
3. This Ordinance shall commence and take effect when confirmed and allowed by Her Majesty.

Passed in Council at Port Louis, Island of Mauritius, this 10th day of September 1857.

R. Y. Cummins,
Secretary to the Council.

Published by order of his Excellency the Governor.

Humphry Sandwith,
Colonial Secretary.

SCHEDULE of Sums to be defrayed out of the Accumulated Balances in compliance with the foregoing Ordinance.

Works and Buildings.										£. s. d.		
Lunatic asylum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,234	12	11
Powder magazine	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,926	12	6
Quarantine buildings, 40,793 <i>l.</i> , now revised to	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£. 39,602			
Additional quarantine expenses incurred, which may be included in the revised estimate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,459			
										42,061	-	-
										52,222	5	5
Police station, Plaines Wilhems, and purchase of ground	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£. 2,855			
Prisons, Rivière du Rempart	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,340			
Bridge over Rivière du Poste	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,000			
										9,195	-	-
TOTAL Works and Buildings										61,417	5	5
Immigration.												
Introduction of 3,000 additional Immigrants										21,000	-	-
TOTAL										82,417	5	5

Appendix, No. 23.

Appendix, No. 23.

(L. S.)
W. Stevenson.

ORDINANCE No. 30 of 1857. Enacted by the Governor of Mauritius, with the advice and consent of the Council of Government thereof. To vest the Special Committee of Council, appointed to inquire into and report upon a Letter from Mr. Advocate Savy, to the Governor General in India in Council, representing that impartial justice is not administered to Indian immigrants in this Colony, with the power to compel witnesses to give evidence on oath or affirmation.—[21 October 1857.]

WHEREAS at a sitting of the Council of Government held on the tenth day of September in the present year, a Special Committee of the said Council was appointed to inquire into and report upon a letter from Mr. Advocate Savy, to the Governor General in India in Council, representing that impartial justice is not administered to Indian immigrants in this Colony :

And whereas it is expedient to invest the said Committee with power and authority to administer oaths or affirmations, as the case may be, to all witnesses who may be examined before them, and also to summon and compel all witnesses whom they may think fit to examine touching the subject-matter of the said inquiry to attend and give evidence therein :

Be it therefore enacted by his Excellency the Governor with the advice and consent of the Council of Government as follows :

1. The said Committee shall have power and authority and are hereby required to administer an oath to every witness who shall be examined or shall be required to produce any document or documents before them touching any matter relating to the said inquiry to whom an oath could be lawfully administered in a court of justice, and every witness whose evidence, if emitted in a court of justice, would be taken upon affirmation, shall, before being examined or required to produce any document or documents as aforesaid, emit such affirmation in the same manner as if he had been called upon to give evidence as a witness in a court of justice. In the cases herein-aforesaid the oath or affirmation, as the case may be, shall be administered by the chairman of the Committee.

Committee to administer Oath or Affirmation.

2. Any witness who, having been duly sworn or having made affirmation as herein-aforesaid, shall wilfully give false evidence before the said Committee, shall be liable to prosecution, conviction, and punishment in the same manner as if he had given such false evidence in a civil suit.

Penalty for false Evidence.

3. Every person who may be required to give evidence, or to produce any document or documents before the said Committee, shall be summoned by the chairman of the Committee; and any person who, having been summoned by service by any usher of a writ under the hand of the said chairman, calling him to appear for the said purpose at a place and on a day specified in such writ, not being sooner than 48 hours after such service, shall not attend, or, attending, shall refuse to be sworn, or emit an affirmation as herein-aforesaid, or, after having been sworn, or emitted such affirmation, shall refuse to give evidence or produce any document under his power or control which he may lawfully be required to produce or to answer any question which the Committee may lawfully call upon him to answer, shall be liable to be attached in the Supreme Court, upon a certificate under the hand of the chairman of the Committee setting forth the grounds of complaint against the witness, and shall be liable to be punished in like manner as if such witness, after having been duly summoned or subpoenaed, had neglected to attend, or had refused to be sworn or emit an affirmation or to give evidence or to produce any document or answer any lawful question respectively upon a trial in any civil cause before the said Supreme Court.

Compulsory attendance of witnesses.

4. This Ordinance shall take effect on and from the day of its publication.

Promulgation.

Passed in Council at Port Louis, island of Mauritius, this 21st day of October 1857.

R. Y. Cummins,
Secretary to the Council.

Published by order of his Excellency the Governor.

Humphry Sandwith,
Colonial Secretary.

Appendix, No. 24.

Appendix, No. 24.

(L.B.)

William Stevenson.

ORDINANCE No. 7 of 1858. Enacted by the Governor of Mauritius, with the advice and consent of the Council of Government thereof, to modify Ordinance No. 5 of 1849, as to the Tax payable on Engagement of new Immigrants.—[22 April 1858.]

WHEREAS by Ordinance No. 5 of 1849, it is ordered that there shall be paid upon every contract of service with a new immigrant a stamp duty according to the scale in the said Ordinance provided :

And whereas provision has not been made in the said Ordinance or otherwise for cases in which extended or substituted contracts of service are entered into before the expiry of contracts upon which the proper stamp duty has been paid, which state of the law frequently occasions hardship and inconvenience to masters and to new immigrants in the Colony:

Be it therefore enacted by his Excellency the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Council of Government, as follows :

No Stamp Duty to be paid for period comprehended by subsisting contract.

1. Where any new immigrant engaged under a contract of service for which the proper duty has been paid shall, before the expiry of the time specified in the said contract, agree to annul such contract, and to enter into a new engagement with the same employer for a period comprehending any portion of the time embraced by such previous contract, no stamp duty shall be paid upon such new engagement in so far as it relates to the aforesaid portion of time, but the new engagement shall nevertheless be charged with the duty applicable to the additional or extended period of employment.

2. In the event of any estate upon which new immigrants, one or more, are engaged to the proprietor thereof under any contract of service, being acquired by a new proprietor under any lawful title of transmission, and in the event of any of the said new immigrants being willing to engage upon such estate with the said new proprietor for the portion remaining unexpired of any contract of service subsisting at the date of such transmission, or for any period including such portion, no stamp duty shall be paid upon such new engagement in so far as it relates to the said unexpired portion.

This Ordinance not to apply when contract was broken for misconduct, &c.

3. Provided that nothing in this Ordinance contained shall be held to extend to cases in which the first engagement was broken by the stipendiary magistrate having jurisdiction therein on account of any act of misconduct or breach of contract by either of the parties thereto.

Ordinance 5 of 1849 modified.

4. The Ordinance No. 5 of 1849, shall be and the same is hereby altered and modified to the effect hereinbefore provided.

5. The present Ordinance shall commence and take effect on the 24th day of April 1858.

Passed in Council at Port Louis, island of Mauritius, this 22d day of April 1858.

R. Y. Cummins,

Secretary to the Council.

Appendix, No. 25.

Appendix, No. 25.

(L. S.)

William Stevenson.

ORDINANCE No. 30 of 1858. Enacted by the Governor of Mauritius with the advice and consent of the Council of Government thereof, An Ordinance to legalise Contracts of Service made in India, and authorise Government to allot newly arrived Immigrants.—[20 October 1858.]

WHEREAS it is expedient to legalise contracts of service to be entered into in India with immigrants to Mauritius:

And whereas it is also expedient to enable the Government of Mauritius to allot to employers Indian immigrants newly arrived in Mauritius, who shall not have entered into such contracts: Be it therefore enacted by his Excellency the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Council of Government, as follows.

Contracts of Service in India legalised.

1. From and after the date when this Ordinance shall come into operation, contracts of service to be performed in Mauritius for periods not exceeding three years, may be lawfully entered into in India between immigrants from India to Mauritius, and persons residing or having landed property in the Colony, provided that such contracts shall be entered into in the manner prescribed by this Ordinance, and by any regulations to be made and published as hereinafter provided.

2. Every

2. Every such contract of service entered into in terms of this Ordinance and of the said regulations, shall be equally valid and effectual (except as hereinafter provided), as if it had been entered into in Mauritius, according to the law and practice existing there at the date of such contract.

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Such contracts valid if made according to law.

3. In every case in which a passage to Mauritius shall have been taken for any immigrant, who shall have entered into a contract as herein-aforesaid, the party whom such immigrant shall have engaged to serve, shall pay to the Government of Mauritius the passage-money and all other expenses which may be incurred on account of such immigrant, together with the proportional expense chargeable upon him on account of females accompanying immigrants, under regulations existing at the time.

Employer to pay passage-money, &c.

4. The arrival at the immigration depôt in Mauritius of every immigrant who shall have entered into a contract in India, as aforesaid, shall, as soon as possible, be published or notified to the intended employer under such contract, in terms of the regulations to be framed under this Ordinance.

Arrival of engaged immigrants to be published.

5. Every immigrant who shall have made a contract in India, as aforesaid, and who shall enter on service with the original or substituted employer under the same, shall be free from stamp duty or other impost, on account of the same or any subsequent contract of service which he may make with such employer or those in his right.

Immigrant engaged in India to be free from stamp duty, for contract with first employer.

It shall also be in the power of such employer or those in his right, so long as the immigrant shall remain in his or their service, with the consent of such immigrant, to release him from all obligation to serve under the said contract made in India; and every such immigrant, if released in the form to be prescribed by regulation, shall be free from the said contract, and from all obligation of industrial residence or otherwise under the same.

Employer may release immigrant from contract.

6. If such immigrant shall, at the termination of his said contract of service, refuse to re-engage with the employer under the same, he shall either enter into a contract of service with another employer or other employers successively, subject to a stamp duty of 1*l.* 12*s.* per annum, to be paid by such new employer or employers for the time required to complete the immigrant's full term of five years' industrial residence in the Colony: or, if he shall desire to redeem the residue of his industrial residence, he shall pay to the Colonial Treasury a sum at the said rate of 1*l.* 12*s.* per annum, for every year or part thereof remaining unexpired of his said term of industrial residence.

If not re-engaging to be subject to stamp duty, or to buy up industrial residence.

7. Any sums which may be recovered by Government under the preceding article, shall, in each case, be paid on demand to the employer, under the said first mentioned contract, or to those in his right, upon sufficient evidence to be by them produced, of the right to receive the same.

Such amount to be paid to first employer.

8. Nothing contained in the preceding articles shall be held to prevent or restrict the power of the magistrate having jurisdiction therein, upon lawful grounds, from ordering the cancellation of any contract of service herein-aforesaid. But when such cancellation shall have been ordered on account of any fault or wrong on the part of the employer, or those for whom he is responsible, he shall have no right to any sum which may be received by Government for the immigrant by way of stamp duty on engagement, or for redemption of industrial residence.

Magistrate may cancel contracts made in India.

9. In case the services of any immigrant who shall have entered in India into a contract, as aforesaid, shall not be claimed by the intended employer under the same, within seven days after the immigrant's arrival at the depôt in Mauritius (such arrival being duly published or notified in terms of the regulations), such immigrant may elect either to enforce the contract by proceeding before the proper stipendiary magistrate against the intended employer under the same, or to be entirely free from the obligations of the said contract, subject to his claim of damages for any loss which may arise to him in consequence of non-fulfilment of the contract, which damages may be recovered before the proper stipendiary magistrate.

Immigrant not claimed within seven days may elect to be free from contract.

Every such election shall be intimated to the Protector of Immigrants, and shall by him be recorded in terms of regulations to be framed under this Ordinance.

10. In case the immigrant shall elect to be free from his contract, the party on behalf of whom he shall have been introduced shall forfeit and pay to the Government one-half of the passage-money and other expenses applicable to such immigrant, and of the proportional expense chargeable on him on account of the introduction of females; and every such immigrant shall be in the same position in all respects as if he had been introduced into the Colony without having made any contract in India with an individual employed.

In such case intended employer to pay half expense of introduction.

11. It shall, moreover, be lawful to any immigrant and intended employer, under a contract made in India, to transfer the same, with all its rights and obligations, to a substitute employer; and every such transfer shall assign and transfer to the substituted employer the whole rights and interest under such contract, and all the obligations incumbent upon the intended employer therein.

Contract made in India may be transferred.

Such transfer shall only be valid if made with the full consent of the original and substituted employer, and of the immigrant, and with the approval and concurrence of the Government upon satisfactory reasons being assigned therefor.

Every such transfer shall be in the form, and be executed in the manner prescribed by regulations under this Ordinance.

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Such transfer may be made either on the immigrant's arrival in Mauritius, or at any time during the currency of his engagement.

Engaged immigrant to be maintained at depôt.

12. During the interval between the arrival at the depôt in Mauritius of any immigrant who shall have entered into a contract in India, and his entering the service of his original or substituted employer under the contract, or of any employer to whom he may be allotted, he shall be maintained by the Government; and the expense of such maintenance shall be recovered from the intended employer under the contract or those in his right.

Governor authorised to allot immigrants not engaged in India.

13. When any immigrant shall arrive at Mauritius without having contracted in India, as herein aforesaid, it shall be lawful to the Governor, by such officer as may be entrusted with the duty, to allot such immigrant to any person applying for his services who may be selected therefor, and who shall be able and willing, and shall oblige himself to pay and provide a fair rate of wages and allowances for such immigrant.

All such allotments shall be made in terms of regulations to be proclaimed from time to time under this Ordinance.

Immigrant allotted to be in same position as if engaged.

14. Every immigrant who shall thus be allotted to an employer, shall be subject to the law existing in the Colony at the time as to his industrial residence, and his allotment to or engagement with such employer shall be subject to the stamp duty now payable on contracts with new immigrants introduced entirely at the expense of the Colonial Treasury, except when such allotment shall be made in excess of the number to which the employer would be entitled by regulation.

Governor in Executive Council to make regulations.

15. It shall be lawful to the Governor in Executive Council, from time to time, to make regulations for carrying out the purposes of this Ordinance, and from time to time to alter the same; and all such regulations, on being published in the "Government Gazette," shall have the same effect as if they had been contained verbatim herein, provided that they are not inconsistent with the spirit and meaning of any of the provisions hereof.

Ordinance No. 12 of 1855 repealed.

16. Ordinance No. 12 of 1855, intituled, "An Ordinance to enable persons to procure, at their own expense, Immigrants from India," is hereby repealed, except in so far as it relates to any immigrants already introduced or who may be introduced or embarked under its provisions before the present Ordinance shall have been known at the agency in India whence they shall have been transmitted, and all powers and remedies thereunder in such respects.

Promulgation.

17. This Ordinance shall take effect from the 23d day of October 1858.

Passed in Council at Port Louis, island of Mauritius, this 20th day of September 1858.

R. Y. Cummins,
Secretary to the Council.

PROCLAMATION.

IN the Name of Her Majesty VICTORIA, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, &c. &c. &c.

W. Stevenson.

By His Excellency *William Stevenson*, Esquire, Governor and Commander in Chief, in and over the Island of Mauritius and its dependencies, &c. &c. &c.

WHEREAS, by Ordinance No. 30 of 1858, entitled "An Ordinance to legalise contracts of service made in India, and to authorise Government to allot 'newly arrived immigrants,'" the Governor in Executive Council is authorised from time to time, to make regulations for carrying out the purposes of the said Ordinance; and whereas it is necessary to make such regulations:

In virtue, therefore, of the powers conferred by the aforesaid Ordinance, I do hereby, in Executive Council, order and proclaim as follows:

REGULATIONS.

1. ENGAGEMENT OF IMMIGRANTS IN INDIA.

1. Every person desiring to engage immigrants in India, under the provisions of the said Ordinance, shall deposit with the Protector of Immigrants in Mauritius a requisition (as nearly as may be in the form (A) specifying the number of immigrants required by him, in what district in Mauritius, and for what kind of service or labour they shall be required, the Presidency of India from which he wishes them to be sent, and whether he is willing to give wages and allowances on the Government scale for the time being, or any other and what wages and allowances.

Every such requisition shall be available for the period of 15 calendar months, to be calculated from its date.

2. Every

2. Every such requisition may at any time be withdrawn by the party who shall have made it, by written notice left with the Protector of Immigrants; and such withdrawal shall be intimated by the Protector to the Emigration Agent at the Presidency from which the immigrants shall be required.

But in such case the requisition shall remain in full effect, so far as regards any action that shall have taken place upon it before notice of such withdrawal was received by the said Emigration Agent.

3. The party making such requisition shall also give security to the Protector by bond, with one surety (as nearly as may be in the form (B.), for payment of the passage-money and other expenses of the immigrants to be engaged under his requisition.

The Protector may refuse to deliver any immigrant to his intended employer until the said payment shall have been made.

In these expenses no charge shall be made on account of quarantine, if incurred on account of the said immigrants; but the same shall in all cases be borne by Government.

4. As soon as possible after the said requisition and bond shall have been deposited with the Protector of Immigrants, that officer shall transmit a certified copy of the requisition to the Emigration Agent for Mauritius at the Presidency from which the immigrants are required, with instructions to forward the object of the requisition with all convenient speed.

The Protector shall at the same time transmit to such Emigration Agent the name and description of any special agent who may have been selected by the requisitioner, and whom the Protector shall not have rejected for that duty.

5. In all cases where a licensed special agent is not employed, the recruiting for immigrants to be engaged in India shall be conducted only by recruiting agents employed and paid by the Government of Mauritius.

6. Special agents for employers in Mauritius may recruit immigrants for their principals, who shall have complied with the aforesaid requisites, provided that the following conditions be observed:

1st.—The names of every such agent, and of the person or persons for whom he is to recruit, shall be given at full length to the Protector of Immigrants, who shall transmit the same to the Emigration Agent, at the Presidency to which the agent is to be accredited, unless he knows of good reason to the contrary.

2d.—The Emigration Agent, on receipt of the communication, shall (unless he knows of good reason to the contrary) grant to the special agent a license, as nearly as may be in the Form (C.) to recruit for the said party; every such license being for a specified time, not exceeding one year from its date.

3d.—Every special agent shall be under the direction and control of the Emigration Agent at the Presidency for which he shall be licensed, who shall have full power to suspend and withdraw the license, in case of misconduct.

4th.—Every principal shall be responsible for the wrongs and breaches of regulations committed by his agent, in so far as that the Government may refuse to accept future nominations of agents by employers whose agents shall have more than once wilfully committed any such wrongs or breaches.

7. When special agents have been employed and licensed, no recruiting by any Government recruiting agent, or any of his subordinates, shall be expected or relied on by the employers; but that portion of the service shall rest entirely with the licensed special agent and those employed by him, subject to the control of the Government Emigration Agent at the Presidency.

8. In case, however, the special agent shall die or withdraw from his agency, or in case a license shall be refused to such agent, the Emigration Agent may, and shall allow the Government recruiting agents to act in regard to the requisition of the principal of such agent, in the same way as if no special agent had been appointed.

9. When special agents are employed, the engagement of immigrants for agricultural labour may be either at the rate of wages and allowances in the Government scale for the time being, or at any other rate which shall be at least equivalent thereto; and which shall be set forth in the requisition.

When special agents are not employed, the engagement of ordinary agricultural labourers shall be at the wages and allowances in the said Government scale.

10. Skilled labourers of any kind may be engaged upon any terms which shall be set forth in the requisition, and shall in no case be less than the minimum rate specified by the Government scale.

11. Whether special agents shall be employed or not, the engagement shall in every case be upon the terms set forth in the requisition, without any deviation whatever; and if the requisition shall not be in accordance with the rules above specified, it will be rejected, and no engagement will be made in pursuance thereof.

12. The Emigration Agent at each dependency shall, before any contract shall be completed, explain the same fully to the immigrant, with the aid (if necessary) of a duly qualified interpreter, and shall take all proper precautions to prevent the immigrant from being induced to contract by any fraud, falsehood, or unfair means or representations.

13. If the Emigration Agent shall be satisfied that the contract is fully understood by the immigrant, and, if not upon the Government scale, that it is fair and reasonable, he shall, as soon as possible, have the same signed in his presence by the immigrant and by the special agent (if any) of the employer, with their names or marks, and he shall certify the same by a docket signed by himself.

14. If the special agent for the employer shall not be present at the time, the Emigration Agent may sign the contract in his absence, and the contract shall, in that case, be equally valid and binding, as if signed also by the special agent; and no contract bearing to be so signed, shall be challengeable on the ground that the special agent not subscribing was present at the time.

15. The contract and docket shall contain all the items, and shall be, as nearly as may be, in the terms of Form (D.) But no such contract shall be void or voidable on account of any informality, which does not affect it in substance.

16. The Emigration Agent shall, upon the first opportunity after the completion of each contract, despatch the immigrant engaged therein, to the Protector of Immigrants in Mauritius, along with the original of his contract; and he shall also, with every band of male immigrants so despatched, send the number of females required by regulations at the time.

17. The Emigration Agent shall also, whenever he may see occasion, transmit to the Protector certified copies, one or more, of any contract; and the same, if bearing to be certified by him as true copies, and to be subscribed by him, shall have the same effect in law as the original contracts to which they apply, subject only to proof that they are false or inaccurate.

18. The arrival at Mauritius of any immigrant who shall have entered into a contract in India with an individual employer, shall, as soon as possible, be published by the Protector, by written or printed notice, as nearly as may be in the Form (E,) in conspicuous places in and outside of the immigration depôt.

19. The Protector of Immigrants, as soon as possible after the arrival at the depôt of any immigrants, and their contracts, shall cause the same respectively to be registered in the books of his office, after which he shall deliver a certified copy of each contract, to the employer under the same, or any one having his authority, along with the immigrants, one or more thereby engaged.

20. The Protector shall transmit the original contract to the stipendiary magistrate of the district in which the service is to be performed, and the employer shall be entitled to retain the certified copy thereof; which, if bearing to be certified as a true copy, and to be signed by the Protector, shall have the same force and effect as an original, subject only to proof that it is false or inaccurate.

21. The Protector of Immigrants shall also deliver to each immigrant a ticket bearing his name, number, and marks, along with the name of his employer, the place where he is to be employed, and the date of registration of his contract.

22. Whenever the Protector of Immigrants shall have delivered any contract and ticket as above mentioned, both parties to the contract shall be entitled to enforce the same by all lawful procedure, in the same way as if it had been entered into in Mauritius, according to the law and practice existing there at the time.

23. When any immigrant shall (under Art. 9 and 10 of the aforesaid Ordinance) elect to be free from the obligations of his contract, in consequence of his intended employer not having claimed his services, such election shall be intimated to the Protector of Immigrants, and a note thereof (Form (F.) shall by him be indorsed upon the entry of the contract of such immigrant in the register of the depôt.

24. Every transfer (under Art. 11 of the Ordinance) of a contract shall be in the Form (G.).

If made upon the immigrant's arrival in Mauritius, and before he shall have entered upon his service, it shall be made before and authenticated by the Protector of Immigrants, or other officer to be appointed by the Governor to the duty.

If made during the currency of the engagement, it shall be made before and authenticated by the stipendiary magistrate of the district.

Before any such transfer shall have been signed, its nature and effect shall be fully explained to the immigrant by the Protector or magistrate, as the case may be.

25. The Protector or magistrate shall have the power to express the approval and concurrence of the Government in the transfer, provided he shall be satisfied with the reasons assigned therefor.

26. In

26. In no case shall such approval or concurrence be expressed where there is reason to believe that the original engagement with the immigrant was not made with the *bonâ fide* intention of his serving the employer therein.

27. Wherever the transaction shall appear to be a speculation or trafficking in the service of immigrants through the medium of a pretended employer, the approval or concurrence above mentioned shall be withheld.

28. Any employer who shall (under Art. 5 of the Ordinance) desire to release from contract an immigrant engaged to him in India shall either personally, or by one having his written authority, appear along with the immigrant before the stipendiary magistrate of the district, who shall thereupon explain to the immigrant the object and effect of the said release; and if the immigrant shall understand and agree to the same, he shall cause both parties to sign a memorandum of such release in his presence, authenticating it also by his signed doquet, all as in Form (H.) in the Schedule.

The magistrate shall then deliver to the immigrant a certified copy of such memorandum, after which he shall transmit the original thereof to the Protector of Immigrants, by whom an entry of the same shall be made on the registry of the said immigrant in the books at the dépôt.

II.—ALLOTMENT OF IMMIGRANTS NOT SPECIALLY ENGAGED IN INDIA.

29. The wages and allowances of all immigrants who shall not have engaged in India to individual employers, shall for their first period of service for three years or otherwise be upon the scale to be fixed by Government in the mode after described; and no alteration which may come into operation upon the said scale after the date of any allotment shall have any effect upon the wages and allowances of the immigrant allotted previously thereto.

30. When their first service shall have terminated by the said immigrants having served during its whole period, with any extension on account of unlicensed absences, they will be free to engage with any employer upon any terms that may be mutually agreed to.

31. But in case the first service of any allotted immigrant shall terminate prematurely, such immigrant shall be again allotted to another employer or employers, successively for the residue of his original allotment; provided that he shall receive the same wages and allowances as if he had continued in his first employment.

32. Every immigrant who shall not have been engaged in India to an individual employer shall, in presence of the Emigration Agent at the Presidency from which he shall be embarked, sign a contract, as nearly as may be in the form of Schedule (I.), which contract the said Agent shall transmit to Mauritius, along with the immigrant, and his name, number, and marks.

33. Every person intending to apply for an allotment of immigrants, one or more, shall lodge with the Protector a requisition containing the items of his proposed contract, in the Form (K.) of Schedule; which requisition may be withdrawn or altered any time before an allotment shall have been made and duly certified upon it.

34. The Protector of Immigrants, as soon as possible after the arrival of any immigrants not engaged in India to individual employers, shall register them and give them tickets, as by the practice at the date hereof.

35. When any such immigrant shall have been recruited for an individual employer, the Protector shall allot him to such employer, provided both parties consent to such allotment. He shall follow the same course in regard to any immigrant who shall express his preference for an individual employer.

In both of these cases when the immigrants allotted are in excess of the proportion to which the employer would be entitled by regulations, the employer shall pay the expenses applicable to such immigrants in excess, in terms of Ordinance No. 22 of 1857.

36. But in the cases mentioned in the preceding articles, the Protector shall not give effect to any recruiting or selection which shall have been induced by improper agency or artifice in any place whatever.

37. Whenever it shall appear to the Protector that an immigrant has selected a particular employer in consequence of the intervention of any person habitually making a trade, business, or speculation, of interposing between employers and immigrants, the Protector shall not allot him to the employer so selected.

38. The Protector shall not recognise any recruiting for, or selection of any individual employer, unless the same shall have been intimated to the Protector, or a duly qualified officer of his department, either on board the vessel which shall have brought the immigrant, or upon the immigrant's giving his name to the Protector at the dépôt on his arrival, and the Protector shall take the earliest opportunity of ascertaining whether any and which of the immigrants arriving in any vessel have been recruited for, or have selected their employers.

39. Upon any vessel arriving with immigrants not engaged in India to individual employers, the Protector shall, either on board the vessel, or as soon as possible after the landing of the immigrants, set aside all such as shall declare themselves to have been recruited

Appendix, No. 25. for, or to have selected individual employers, and to be ready to engage with them, and he shall without delay prepare, execute, and deliver their certificates of allotment as after mentioned.

40. Immigrants who shall not have specially engaged in India, and who shall not have declared that they had been recruited for, or have selected individual employers, shall be allotted to persons applying for them according to the proportions specified in the Government Gazette of 17th April 1858, or in any proclamation upon the subject to be made by the Governor in Executive Council.

41. In reckoning the proportion of each employer, account shall be taken of immigrants allotted to him in consequence of recruiting or selection, but not of immigrants who shall have been engaged to him under contracts in India.

42. No allotment shall be made to any middleman coming within the description of Art. 37, or to any person trafficking in the services of immigrants.

43. The immigrants arriving in each ship without previous recruiting or selection, shall be regarded as one group, and shall be distributed among the parties entitled to them in one or more districts; the several districts being for this purpose arranged in alphabetical order, and following each other in regular rotation.

44. When any such group shall not suffice to give one-fourth part of their quota to the requisitionists in any district, they shall be distributed proportionally among those requisitionists in alphabetical order who shall be entitled together to four times the number for distribution; and the remaining requisitionists in such district shall not be entitled to their allotments until one group shall have been distributed in like manner among the requisitionists in the other districts.

45. After all the districts shall have been gone over, distribution shall again be made in the same rotation, those employers in each district among whom no distribution has been made being supplied first, and afterwards those who shall only have received part of their quota.

46. After all employers throughout the colony shall have received their full quotas, allotments shall be made to those who may be willing to pay (in terms of Ordinance No. 22 of 1857) for the passage-money and other expenses of additional immigrants so to be allotted, and in such allotment each group of immigrants shall be distributed in the order and proportions above specified.

47. The Protector shall arrange the immigrants so as to carry out the above mode of allotment with as little disturbance as possible to their association among themselves in bands; he shall also have, and shall exercise a discretionary power to deviate from the strict order above specified whenever such deviation may be necessary to prevent immigrants who are connected by family ties from being allotted against their will to different employers.

48. Every allotment shall be made by written certificate in the terms, and executed as in the Form (L.) hereunto annexed, which certificate shall be appended to the requisition above mentioned.

49. Upon being so executed, and being delivered by the Protector to the intended employer or his authorised agent, it shall operate as a binding obligation on the parties to enter into a formal contract of service in the terms mentioned in the requisition.

50. The Protector, at the time with delivering to the employer or his agent the certificate of allotment, shall also deliver the whole immigrants thereby allotted.

51. Every such certificate shall be full authority to the stipendiary magistrate having jurisdiction in the premises, to make out and execute a formal written contract of service in terms of the requisition and certificate; and in so doing he shall not inquire whether the immigrant and employer consents to such contract; nor shall it be necessary for these parties to attend before the magistrate for the purpose of executing the same.

52. The service shall be held to have commenced at the date of the certificate of allotment.

III.—GENERAL REGULATIONS.

53. The Protector of Immigrants shall, as soon as possible after the passing of these Regulations, procure and furnish to the Governor for transmission to the Government Emigration Agents in India a full and accurate statement as to the average rates of wages and allowances for different kinds of agricultural labourers, tradesmen, artisans and domestic servants in the Colony, distinguishing the rates applicable:—1st. To newly-arrived immigrants; 2d. To immigrants who have been three years in the Colony; and, 3d, To old immigrants.

54. From these materials there shall be fixed, under authority of the Governor, the rate of wages and allowances of ordinary agricultural labourers to be allotted during the ensuing year, and of those to be engaged without the intervention of special agents.

There

There shall also be prepared a scale of the minimum and maximum rates of wages and allowances of tradesmen, artisans, and household servants current at the time.

The said scales may be graduated so as to increase year by year throughout the first period of service.

The scales so prepared shall, as soon as possible, be published in the "Government Gazette."

55. Similar scales shall be made not later than the month of August in each succeeding year, from which a similar scale of wages and allowances shall, in like manner, be prepared and published.

56. The scales specified in the preceding Articles shall, upon the earliest opportunity, be transmitted to the Emigration Agents at the several Presidencies, in order to be posted up in conspicuous places in or near their depôts, in the several dialects commonly understood in the Presidencies respectively.

They shall also be posted up in and near the depôt in Mauritius in the different dialects commonly known in the Colony.

57. All communication, directly or indirectly, by or on behalf of any intended employer, with newly-arrived immigrants, previous to their arrival at the immigration depôt is strictly prohibited.

58. Whenever it shall be proved, to the satisfaction of the Protector, that such communication has taken place, he may refuse to allot any immigrant to the employer for whom such immigrant shall have been induced to declare a preference in consequence of such communication.

59. The Protector shall also have full power to exclude from the depôt every person who he shall have reason to believe shall have come there for the purpose, or with the intention of inducing immigrants to engage with an employer for whom they shall not have been recruited in India, or whom they shall not have selected before arrival at the depôt.

60. All contracts and other documents mentioned in the Schedule shall, as far as possible, be upon printed forms to be furnished by a duly authorised officer of Government; and when such forms can be obtained none other shall be used for the purpose.

61. Whenever any document requiring to have any official signature of any magistrate or public officer under these Regulations, shall bear *ex facie* to have such signature, it shall be received in all courts of justice as genuine, without such signature requiring to be proved; and it shall continue to be so received until the said signature shall have been proved to be a forgery.

62. The present Regulations shall take effect from the 13th day of November 1858.

Given in Executive Council at Government House, this 12th day of November 1858.

R. Y. Cummins,

Secretary to the Council.

By command,

Humphry Sandwith, Colonial Secretary.

SCHEDULE.

FORM (A.)

Ordinary Agricultural Labourers.

I [name and designation] request the Protector of Immigrants to take the steps required by law and regulations for obtaining for me from the Presidency of _____ the number of immigrants for agricultural purposes to be employed in the district of _____.

I undertake to pay to each immigrant who shall engage with me in virtue of this requisition the wages and allowances upon the Government scale at the time of engagement [or] the wages and allowances following, viz.: [as the case may be].

Proper lodging and medical care to be also furnished by me to each of the said immigrants.

[If a special agent is to be employed the following will be added.]

I name _____ my special agent and recruiter of immigrants in India.

A. B. [Applicant's signature.]

The above requisition lodged with me this _____ day of _____ 185 _____.

G. H., Protector of Immigrants, Mauritius.

Artisans and other Skilled Labourers.

I [name and designation] request the Protector of Immigrants to take the steps required by law and regulations for obtaining for me from the Presidency of _____, to be

employed in the district of _____, the number of immigrants, for the employments and at the monthly rate of wages and allowances following, viz.:

[Number] carpenters at the wages of [lowest rate offered] to [highest rate offered].

[Ditto] masons - - - of - [ditto] - to - [ditto].

[Ditto] groomers - - - of - [ditto] - to - [ditto].

[and so on with regard to other skilled labourers required.]

[If only one rate is offered, the same to be stated.]

Allowances [if any, to be specified at length].

Proper lodging and medical treatment to be also furnished by me to each of the said immigrants.

I undertake to pay and provide to each immigrant who shall engage to me in virtue of this requisition the wages which shall be agreed on in India with him at the rates (or within the limits) above-mentioned, and also the allowances above stated.

[If a special agent is to be employed, the following will be added:]

I name _____ my special agent and recruiter of immigrants in India.

A. B., [Applicant's signature].

The above requisition lodged with me this _____ day of _____ 185 .

G. H.,

Protector of Immigrants, Mauritius.

FORM (B.)

A. B., of _____, and C. D., of _____, jointly and severally promise and bind themselves towards the Protector of Immigrants on behalf of the Government of Mauritius, as follows:

The said A. B. having this day made requisition under the provisions of Ordinance No. 30 of 1858 for _____ Indian immigrants, hereby undertakes to accept that number or any lesser number that may be introduced pursuant to his requisition; the said A. B. and C. D. bind themselves jointly and severally to pay all expenses attendant upon the introduction of such immigrants, and of the proportion of females by regulation required to accompany them, including in such expenses of introduction the cost of maintenance of such immigrants at the rate of 6 d. per diem for each immigrant, from the date of landing until the date of leaving the dépôt to enter on the service of the said A. B. The said A. B. and C. D. promise to pay to the Protector of Immigrants all such expenses of introduction, upon the said immigrants being handed over to the said A. B., engaged to him under a binding contract to be made with them in India, such payment to be exigible previous to their leaving the dépôt.

In default of the said A. B. claiming and engaging such immigrants within seven clear days after they shall have been landed at the dépôt, the said A. B. and C. D. bind themselves to pay to the Protector of Immigrants 7 s. for each immigrant, as his cost of maintenance during the interval between his arrival at the dépôt and his entering on service; and in case of such default and of any of the said immigrants electing to be free from their engagement, the said A. B. and C. D. do further bind themselves, as aforesaid, to pay to the Protector one-half of the expense of introducing the immigrants so electing, and of the proportion of females accompanying them.

The said A. B. and C. D. hereby consent that the certificate of the Protector of Immigrants shall be conclusive evidence against them in all courts and places of the amount chargeable against them in respect of the said expenses of introduction, or of the costs of their maintenance, as the case may be.

[To be written by each of the } Approved A. B.
obligants in his own name.] } Approved C. D.

[If they or either of them cannot write, they or he shall sign by mark in presence of one witness subscribing.]

The above bond signed in my presence and deposited with me this _____ day of _____ 185

T. H., Protector of Immigrants.

FORM (C.)

This is to certify that [name of special agent] is hereby licensed to recruit emigrant labourers for [employer's name and designation], in Mauritius, in conformity with the Regulations published and to be published from time to time regarding such recruiting. This licence is granted from the _____ to the _____ inclusive, and upon the express understanding and condition that the said agent is to be under the direction and control of myself and my successors in office in all matters relating to such recruiting, and that we shall have full power to suspend or withdraw this licence, if he shall not conduct himself in the premises to our satisfaction.

A. B., Emigration Agent at _____
for Government of Mauritius.

(Date).

FORM (D.)

Registered at Immigration Depot,
Mauritius, this
day of
185
G. H.
Protector of Immigrants.

We, the undersigned immigrants from _____ to Mauritius, hereby engage to serve [*employer's name and addition*] as _____ on the estate of _____ in the district or _____ [or otherwise, as the case may be] for full period of _____ years from the date of registration of this contract in Mauritius with double the time of any unlicensed absences, in consideration of receiving the wages and allowances following, viz.

[Here follow the wages and allowances.]

Proper lodging and medical care to be also provided to us.

And we further engage at the expiry of this contract to enter into new contracts of service, one or more either with the above-named or with other persons to be agreed upon hereafter, until we shall have completed the full period of five years' industrial residence in Mauritius, with double the time of any unlicensed absences.

[Here follow the signatures and marks of the Immigrants and of employer's agent, if present at the time.]

The above contract was explained in my presence to the said immigrants, and signed before me by them with their names or marks, and by authorised agent of the said _____ at _____ this day of _____ 185

A. B., Emigration Agent at
for Government of Mauritius.

[List of names and numbers of Immigrants to the above contract.]

FORM (E.)

Notice of Arrival of Immigrants specially engaged in India.

Immigrants arrived engaged in India upon requisition by the following persons; viz.

[List of names and designations of parties to whom engaged.]

T. H., Protector of Immigrants.

Immigration Depot, Mauritius,
day of _____ 185

FORM (F.)

The within named immigrant _____ has elected to be free from his contract, not having been claimed within seven days after arrival at the depot.

(Date.)

T. H., Protector of Immigrants.

FORM (G.)

We [*name and designation of intended employer, and names and numbers of immigrants engaged*] being respectively the intended master and servants under a contract of service made before the Government Emigration Agent at _____ on the day of _____ do hereby agree that the whole rights and obligations of the said first party under the said contract shall be, and the same are hereby transferred, as at the date hereof, to [*name and designation*] under the provisions of Ordinance No. 30 of 1858; who hereby agrees to accept the said transfer and the contract hereby transferred, with all its rights and obligations.

X. I. }
A. B. } [Signatures or marks of all the parties.]
I. }

The above transfer signed by all the parties thereto, its nature and effect having been first fully explained to the immigrants above named all in my presence. The said transfer also approved and concurred in by me as on behalf of the Government.

At _____ this _____ day of _____ 185

T. H.

Protector of Immigrants.

[or]

Stipendiary Magistrate
for the District of _____

FORM (H.)

Memorandum of Release from Contract of Service.

We [name and designation of employer and name and number of immigrant] being respectively the employer and the servant under a contract of service made at India, and dated the day of do hereby consent that the said second party shall from this day and henceforth be released from the said contract and all obligations under the same.

X. Y. } [Signatures or marks of parties.]
Z. }

The nature and effect of the above release explained by me to the said immigrant who, having expressed his full consent hereto, both parties signed the same in my presence this day of 185

M. N.
Stipendiary Magistrate
for the District of

FORM (I.)

Registered at Immigration Depot,
Mauritius, this day of 185
by me G. H.
Protector of Immigrants.

We, the undermentioned immigrants from to Mauritius, hereby engage to serve the employers to whom we may be respectively allotted by the Mauritius Government for the period of years after the date of registration of this contract in Mauritius, with double the time of any unlicensed absences: And we further engage, after the expiry of such service, to enter into contracts of service one or more with other persons to be agreed upon hereafter, until we shall have completed the full period of five years industrial residence in Mauritius, with double the time of any unlicensed absences.

[Here follow the signatures and marks of the Immigrants.]

The above contract was explained to the said immigrants in my presence, and signed by them, with their names or marks before me, and also signed by me, on behalf of the Government of Mauritius, at this day of 185

A. B.
Emigration Agent at for
Mauritius Government.

[List of names and numbers of Immigrants to the above contract.]

FORM (K.)

I [name and designation] request the Protector of Immigrants to allot to me under Ordinance No. 30 of 1858, and relative regulations, for contract of service for years, the number of newly arrived immigrants for the employments following, viz.:—

[Number required, and for what kinds of employment to be specified.]

I undertake to give to any immigrants who may be allotted to me under this requisition wages and allowances according to the Government scale existing at the time of allotment. Proper lodging and medical care to be also furnished by me to the said immigrants.

L. M.

[Signature of Requisitionist.]

(If he cannot write he will sign his mark before one subscribing witness.)

Lodged with me thi day of 185

I. H.
Protector of Immigrants.

FORM (L.)

I hereby certify that I have this day allotted to the said requisitionist the immigrants following, for the employments and periods of service, and on the conditions above specified respectively.

(Date.)

T. H.
Protector of Immigrants.

List of Immigrants allotted.

THE
R E P O R T S

*Made for the Year 1857 to the Secretary of State having the Department of the Colonies ;
in continuation of the Reports annually made by the Governors of the British
Colonies, with a view to exhibit generally*

THE PAST AND PRESENT STATE
OF
HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

TRANSMITTED WITH THE BLUE BOOKS
For the Year 1857.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
9 August 1859.



L O N D O N :
PRINTED BY GEORGE EDWARD EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
1859.

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PART I.

NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES.

PART I.—NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES.

CANADA.

CANADA.

No. 1.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor-General the Right Hon. Sir E. HEAD, Bart.,
to the Right Hon. Sir E. B. LYTON, Bart., M.P.

(No. 110.)

Government House, Toronto, August 30, 1858.

(Received September 13, 1858.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward with this Despatch the returns from the several
Departments containing the Statistics for the year 1857. These returns are as follows:—

1. MS. list of Officers.
2. Public Accounts.
3. Trade and Navigation.
4. Public Works.
5. Crown Lands.
6. Post Office.
7. Penitentiary.
8. Militia.
9. Education, Upper Canada.
10. Education, Lower Canada.
11. Geological Survey.

2. With regard to the condition of the province during 1857, my report is not by any means so favourable as I anticipated at the commencement of the year, or as I could have desired. The financial crisis of last autumn swept over the length and breadth of North America, blasting undertakings in which capital had been invested with perfect confidence, and throwing back into poverty those who had relied on such enterprises for employment or for ultimate gain. The re-action from England and the United States would alone have been sufficient to have involved Canada in difficulties similar to those which pressed on both these communities. Credits given were suddenly withdrawn, and goods bought in full reliance on a speedy and profitable sale became at once valueless, whilst payment was exacted from the importer with double rigour.

3. On the farmer the shock was scarcely less severe. In a community where there is little enterprise the ebb of pecuniary prosperity is, as a matter of course, less felt, but in Upper Canada every man is anxious to improve his farm buildings, or extend the limits of his cultivated land; this he will do as far as his ready money will carry him, and a little further. The sudden withdrawal of the aid which he reckoned on from the local bank leaves him without the means of paying the artificers whom he has employed, whilst the fall of prices obliges him to part with whatever produce he may have on hand at a loss, lucky, indeed, if he can sell it at all.

4. The labouring classes have felt the consequences of this in the increased difficulty of obtaining employment, and in the reduction of wages.

5. The following statement made to me by a gentleman resident in the county of Oxford, C. W., will shew the rates current in his part of the country during the last two years:—"In 1856 and 1857, my wages were to farm labourers (they boarding themselves) \$24 per month, and in October 1857, I reduced them to \$16 per month, which is all I am paying this year. I give them wood to cut for themselves and a house, and did the same at \$24. Hay harvest, and find themselves—

		" 10s. York, per acre (\$1 25c.) 1857.			
		" 7s. ditto (\$0 87½) 1858.			
		1857.		1858.	
" Wheat harvest	-	\$2 50c. per acre	-	\$2 0	
" Peas and oats	-	\$2 0 ditto	-	\$1 50	
" Harvest hands, per day	\$1 50c.	-	-	\$1 0."	

6. As a natural accompaniment to all this, men who were supposed to be worth thousands in land and buildings suddenly found themselves the owners of that which no one could buy, or which, if sold at all, would not fetch one-tenth part of the nominal price that it bore six months before.

7. These phenomena, however, were not peculiar to Canada. In one respect we may boast our superiority over our neighbours in the United States. None of our banks suspended specie payments, and we were thus spared the misery inflicted by the sudden collapse of the paper circulation in the hands of the middle and lower classes.

8. The pressure however, has not yet passed away.

9. The finances of 1857, and of the current year have shewn: and will show, strong and manifest marks of the embarrassed condition of the country. The diminution of revenue, taken together with the large undertakings in public works in which the Government had long since embarked, will task the energies of Canada to meet the crisis and its consequences. Still, I believe, that substantially, the resources of the country are unimpaired, and that its tendency to advance will overcome the temporary depression which now weighs us down.

10. There is one great source of future prosperity in Canada which ought to increase in importance from day to day. I mean the western trade.

11. Her Majesty's Government are already in possession of the reports of Mr. Consul Wilkins, of Chicago. What do these documents show? They prove that since the year 1854, under the Reciprocity Treaty, a new line of communication has been opened. It appears that in 1854 the number of British vessels entering Chicago was 5, and clearing from it 6. In 1855 those numbers rose to 77 and 61. In 1856, to 110 and 104. In 1857, to 119 and 101. The imports of lumber in British vessels were in 1850, *nil*. In 1857, about 15,000,000 feet.

12. You are well aware, sir, of the fact that the progress of Chicago has itself been most marvellous. In 1854 it is said to have contained a population of 80,000 persons, and in 1856, this population amounted to 110,000. But I am informed that the progress of Chicago represents but feebly the rapid growth of the North Western States of the American Union, which are fast settling from day to day. The produce of these lands will be enormous, and their demand for manufactured goods and other imports will necessarily be in proportion.

13. Perhaps the most important question for Canada must be, what will be the natural and most easy road for this commerce to pursue?

14. Mr. Wilkins is of opinion, that the grain from Chicago may be laid down for shipment to Europe at Montreal at least from 40 to 50 per cent cheaper than at New York. I have no means of testing the accuracy of these figures, but the consideration is a most important one.

15. A short time since a very intelligent Norwegian gentleman, who has settled at Green Bay, high up on Lake Michigan, called on me. He assured me that the deep conviction of himself and the persons settled about him was, that their own trade, and that of the North Western regions beyond them, must ultimately look to Montreal as its port, and the St. Lawrence as its highway to the ocean.

16. I believe that no man can at present estimate the volume of the tide of commerce which twenty years hence may pour down this channel.

17. It is painful for me to state that petty and vexatious restrictions, in the nature of consular certificates loaded with high fees, have, in some degree, impeded this trade with the United States, and the working of the Reciprocity Treaty since last year.

18. My efforts, through His Excellency Lord Napier, to get these restrictions taken off have hitherto failed. If a feeling of irritation on the subject springs up in Canada, there will be a strong effort made to impose trammels of the same kind on the American trade which crosses our territory—a proceeding fraught with inconvenience to both countries, and more especially detrimental to the trade of Detroit.

19. In my "Blue Book Despatch" of last year, I alluded to the number of cattle conveyed across our Peninsula from Windsor to the Suspension Bridge over the Niagara River. The number of these animals transported in 1857, by the Great Western Railway, was as follows:—

		To Suspension Bridge, Niagara.		To Buffalo viâ Paris.		Total.
Cattle, Head	-	17,087	-	6,021	-	23,108
Sheep	-	16,995	-	4,250	-	21,245
Pigs	-	109,763	-	36,661	-	146,424
		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
Total	-	143,845	-	46,932	-	191,777
		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>

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20. If this transit trade were to be embarrassed by consular certificates on each animal, or each car-load of pigs, the loss to all parties would be very considerable.

21. I wish I were able to say that I thought the Reciprocity Treaty had been acted on throughout by the United States Government in a liberal and conciliatory spirit, but such is not my opinion.

22. I have spoken above of the pressure of the monetary crisis on the farmers. No doubt, as I observed last year, some slight alleviation to such pressure at the dead season of the year has been afforded by the power of getting grain and produce to market by means of the railways. From the 1st of December 1857 to the 30th of April 1858, whilst all navigation was closed, the Grand Trunk Railway carried the following quantities of flour and grain :—

Barrels of flour	-	-	-	-	178,083
Bushels of grain	-	-	-	-	81,022

Of this, 47,841 barrels of flour, and 35,238 bushels of grain, were carried to the coast for shipment at Portland.

23. I annex to this Despatch a printed copy of the Report of the Committee of the Canadian Legislative Assembly, on the Trade of the lakes and seaboard between the different Atlantic ports in America and Great Britain. I am far from professing to agree with all the reasoning or suggestions of the Committee, but the report and the appendices thereto contain much valuable information on the trade of Canada. The statement with reference to the impediments offered to British vessels by the Navigation Laws of the United States is peculiarly important, and I would strongly urge that the adoption of some more liberal system should be pressed on the United States Government.

24. Even if it were confined to the lakes the boon would be great, and the power of shipping goods from one American port to another, or one British port to another, by British or American vessels respectively, would be materially beneficial. As a matter of course, the admission of British built vessels to an American registry, and the opening of the coasting trade on the seaboard would be a great additional advantage.

25. In conclusion, I would observe, that the efforts made to promote railways in Canada, and to extend our public works, have taxed the strength of the colony, and must for long draw heavily on its resources; but these railways and improvements are, we may hope, sure to produce additional ability to meet the burthen thus imposed upon us. I consider our present condition as one of langour and temporary weakness, not one of constitutional feebleness and total prostration.

26. A great interest attaches to the working of the Elective Legislative Council. I think it right to state that twelve additional elective members will be chosen this autumn, leaving two more groups of twelve each to be added at intervals of two years. Up to the present time no difficulty has arisen from the presence of the twelve chosen by the people in connexion with the remaining members originally nominated by the Crown, who retain their seats for life. On the contrary, many valuable members of the council have been added by the choice of the people. Free discussion, combined with decorum, and an independent bearing as one of the two Houses of Parliament, have marked their proceedings, and I see no reason to fear that an additional infusion of the elective element will disturb this state of things.

27. In compliance with the suggestion made in your Despatch of the 11th June, No. 6, I enclose a list of the Acts assented to by me in the session just closed, with copies of the following five Acts :—

Laws.

- a. Tariff.
- b. Imprisonment for Debt.
- c. Election Frauds.
- d. Synod Act.
- e. Rate of Interest.

a. The duties imposed by this Act are somewhat higher than those levied under the Act previously in force. The main object has been to obtain an increase of the revenue for the sake of meeting the obligations of the province. It is impossible to deny, however, that there exists in the assembly a feeling in favour of protective duties, and the ad valorem principle.

b. In this Act I would refer to the 17th and following clauses as directed against the system of fraudulent assignments and preferences, but I apprehend great difficulty may be found in establishing in court the facts required to bring certain classes of cases under the operation of these clauses.

c. This is an Act likely to work most beneficially, and it is urgently required. The frauds practised at the last election were numerous and notorious.

d. This Act declares the meaning of the Act 19 & 20 Vict. c. 141. which was reserved by me and sanctioned by Her most Gracious Majesty, after a reference to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. Had the provisions of the present Act in any way substantially altered those of the former one, I should have thought it my duty in like manner to reserve it for the Queen's pleasure, but it does nothing more than legally attach to the first clause of that Act the meaning which has already been assumed to be the true one in Upper Canada, that is to say, that the laity were to meet at the preliminary synod by representatives, not personally, or as it were, in a sort of primary assembly. At Quebec, an attempt has been made to assert this last to be the true meaning of the Act, and indeed, the omission of all notice of representation in the first section, taken together with its express mention in the second, makes it probable that such would have been the decision of a court on the words of the Statute. The Bishop of Quebec visited Toronto, and expressed a strong opinion that such an interpretation would be fatal to the beneficial working of the law in his diocese, and it was sufficiently obvious from what took place, that this must have been the case. Considering too, that the circumstances admitted of no delay, I have not hesitated to pass this Bill as supplementary to the former Act.

e. This Act relaxes to a certain degree the restrictions previously existing on the interest of money. Although conscientiously opposed by a certain number of the Roman Catholics, and by a large body of the Lower Canadians, it was much desired by the commercial community at large, and I have little doubt that it will be found to work beneficially, so far as it goes. My own opinions are strongly in favour of no restriction on the rate of interest, especially in a country where capital is urgently required, and where in good policy every inducement ought to be offered for its investment.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND HEAD.

Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart., M.P.

&c.

&c.

&c.

Enclosure in No. 1.

Enclosure.

REPORT.

To the Honourable the LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF CANADA.

THE Select Committee appointed with power to inquire into the past and present course of trade between the Lakes and the seaboard, and between the different Atlantic ports in America and Great Britain,—the comparative amount of traffic passing through the United States and this province, the cost and time required in transportation, and the general cost of ocean freights; also, the practical operation of all existing treaties, Acts of Parliament, despatches, orders in council, rules and regulations, of the respective Governments of Great Britain, the United States, and this province, and of all tariffs, duties, and tolls; and the effect already produced and likely hereafter to be produced thereby upon the trade of this province, as well as upon agricultural, manufacturing, shipping, and general interests, also the effects produced upon the inhabitants of the United States and of Canada; and generally all matters and things relating to the home and foreign trade of this province; and other references,—beg leave to submit the following report:

(No. 1. On Postal Subsidies.)

1. Your Committee have examined the official documents and returns, and also all the evidence that could be procured during the short time they have been enabled to give their attention to the various subjects submitted to them.

2. His Excellency the Governor-General having, at the opening of the present session, recommended to the notice of the Legislature the increasing value of the lake commerce of Canada, and the importance attached to emigration, and the employment of ocean steamers, your Committee cannot too strongly urge them on the favourable consideration of the House. The increasing value of the Lake trade is referred to in the reply of the British consul, J. Edward Wilkins, Esquire, of Chicago, [See App. No. 1. Report of Mr. Wilkins, British Consul, Chicago] who points out the unsatisfactory operation of the coasting trade in British vessels, as well as on the direct import and export trade between the western regions and Great Britain, and other transatlantic countries, by way of the river St. Lawrence and the Great Lakes, the restrictions which exist, and at the same time suggests a remedy. This document is entitled to attention.

3. The proportion of the Lake trade diverted to New York is as six and one-half million tons to about half a million forwarded to Quebec. The relative value and amount of tolls is also given in Appendix No. 2. The comparisons made by Messrs. McAlpine and Kirkwood was as eighty-five to

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fifteen in favour of New York (as shewn in their report to the Harbour Commissioners, Montreal), which corresponds very nearly with the above quantities.

4. The imports into Canada by the canals and railways in the United States, in the year 1856 amounted to the sum of \$28,216,180 [See Trade and Navigation Returns, Table 2, p. 134], while the imports into the United States by the St. Lawrence Canals, through Canada, during the same year, was only \$13,492 [See said Returns, Table 7, p. 129]. The value of the exports from Western Canada, through the ports of New York and Quebec, are not given in the Trade Returns. However, the exports from Canada to the United States amounted to \$17,979,753 [See said Returns, Table 14, p. 188.]

5. In 1850 the Provincial Government discovering, from the comparative amount of toll received on the Erie and St. Lawrence Canals, that the trade of the Lakes was diverted to New York, instituted an investigation, and attributed the cause to the high price of ocean freight from Quebec to Liverpool, [See Report of Chief Commissioner of Public Works in Journals, 1851,] the large amount paid by the Governments of Great Britain and the United States, as a postal subsidy, to the mail steamers plying between Liverpool and New York, representing at five per cent. a capital of 7,000,000*l.* sterling, the effect of which was to force an equal amount of tonnage in packet ships (which were displaced by those steamers) into the emigrant trade, thereby reducing return freights to ballast prices.

6. Emigration at the port of Quebec increased from 20,000 in 1844 to 90,000 in 1847, after which it decrease within three years to 32,292; while emigration at the port of New York had increased from about 80,000 in 1847 to 331,276 in 1851, [See App. A. No. 3. Return Chief Agent Emigration]. A more striking instance of the diversion of the ocean trade from Quebec to New York could not be adduced. This diversion does not arise from any defect in the navigation, or excess in the prices of freight between Quebec and any ports in the interior. The comparative prices of freight from Chicago to the seaboard average from 25 to 50 per cent. in favour of the St. Lawrence [See App. No. 4. Letter of Secretary, Board of Trade, Toronto; Letter of K. Tully, Esq., Civil Engineer, Toronto; Letter of Mr. Bundy, Toronto; Opinions of W. Kenighan, Chicago; Letter of Secretary, Board of Trade, Quebec: and see also App. No. 7, Evidence of Captain Pierce before Committee].

7. As an additional proof of the natural advantages the St. Lawrence possesses, reference is made to the Appendix, which shows the comparative length, dimensions, and capacity of the canals, railways, and natural water communications through Canada, compared with those through the United States. [See App. A. No. 5]. From the above facts it is apparent that the mails, passengers, emigrants, and every description of goods, can, at the present moment, be conveyed from Quebec to Chicago or any lake port in the interior, or vice versa, at less cost and in less time than from New York, notwithstanding that the high price of freight between Quebec and Liverpool has diverted almost the entire trade of the lakes to and from Europe to New York.

8. To regain this trade it is proposed to establish a daily line of screw steamers of not less than 2,000 tons burden, with a speed of from ten to twelve miles per hour, between Liverpool and Quebec [See App. No. 6], to connect with another line of steamers of 1,000 tons burden, of the same speed to the Welland Canal and Railway, Toronto or Hamilton, intersecting a line of similar steamers on lakes Erie or Huron to Chicago. By this connection, first-class passengers could reach Chicago from Liverpool, over the Grand Trunk Railway, by Quebec, in about twelve days; emigrants and light freights, by rail and water combined, in about 15 days; and by steamer throughout, in from fifteen to twenty days, thus shortening the passage, as per the log of the "Dean Richmond," from sixty-two days to twelve or twenty, and also lessening the price of transportation from 25 to 50 per cent. [See App. No. 7, Captain Pierce's Evidence].

9. The proposed line of ocean steamers would not interfere with any existing interest, neither would it give any exclusive privilege; steamers could be placed in the line as required, receiving a share of the subsidy in proportion to their tonnage, until a sufficient number is provided. Those not familiar with the trade of the West are startled at the idea of a daily line, but, when reduced to figures, it will not be found formidable; 2,000 tons per day for 200 days, the length of the season, makes only 400,000 tons. We find the Erie Canal, before its enlargement, with locks of only $90 \times 15 \times 4$, in 1853, conveyed 4,247,832 tons, valued at \$207,199,570, on which tolls amounting to \$3,204,718 were received. To show that the principle portion of this trade is carried on in the summer season, we find that, out of 3,129,118 barrels of flour conveyed from Buffalo to New York in 1856, only 482,000 barrels were conveyed by railway during the five months the Erie Canal was closed, (as shewn in the Canal Commissioners Report, 4th February 1858), proving conclusively that the bulk of the trade of the West comes forward during the period of navigation, which by the way of Quebec commences as early and continues as late as by the Hudson.

10. Owing to the saving in distance by this route (some 500 miles), two days would be gained in the conveyance of the mails to Quebec over New York, and a communication established with a lake coast of double the extent of the seaboard of North America, creating a direct trade between the producer and consumer, which would yield a greater revenue than the amount of the subsidy paid by the Government; and, while attracting a large traffic to the Grand Trunk Railway and the St. Lawrence Canals, which do not now pay the cost of management, would render them productive. The establishment of this trade will be the means of removing restrictions and charges imposed by the Customs regulations in the United States, and all evasions of the Reciprocity Treaty by making England our best market, would cease, as it would be reached at less cost through our canals and by our own vessels, than through the United States. It will also create an identity of feeling with the citizens of the Western States, which cannot fail to produce the most important commercial and political results, and may truly be considered a national object. For these reasons your Committee recommend a joint Address to Her Majesty, praying that Her Majesty may be pleased to recommend to the Imperial Parliament to grant the same amount of postal subsidy to the ocean steamers between Liverpool and Quebec as now paid to

the line of steamers between Liverpool and New York, upon condition that a daily line be established between Quebec and Liverpool in summer, and a weekly or a semi-weekly line, as may be required, between Portland and Liverpool in the winter.

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(No. 2. *On Duties, Tolls, and Public Debt.*)

11. Your Committee, having examined into the practical operation of the duties, tolls, and public debt of the Government of the State of New York, and of this Province, have given due consideration to its bearing upon the trade of the respective countries. The public debt of Canada has increased from year to year to about fifty millions of dollars, twenty-five millions of which have been created since 1853, principally in the construction of railways yielding no income [See Public Accounts, 1857, p. 223]; while that of the State of New York has been reduced to about \$31,000,000 (as shewn in the Comptroller's Report, State New York, same year, p. 63), of which about twenty-five millions have been expended in the construction of her canals, the income from which repays the interest, and, under the provisions of her constitution, will repay the principal within twenty years, leaving thereafter, notwithstanding the reduction of the tolls by one third, a liberal support for the maintenance of her State Government, with the assurance that when the debt shall be paid off tolls may be almost wholly removed. It is, therefore, imperative, if Canada is to become a successful competitor for the trade of New York, that her public debt be reduced to the same limit within the same time. The trade of Canada has been diverted through other channels: both her imports and revenue have fallen off; available capital cannot be obtained at any reasonable rate of interest; and a general depression prevails throughout the country requiring immediate relief. Canada, however, still retains the elements of wealth incident to a young and rising country, and only requires time and the introduction of capital to regain her former prosperity.

12. This capital can be obtained by a loan of imperial credit, and the strongest possible grounds exist to warrant the expectation of its being granted by the Imperial Government, because this Province was induced to make the loans referred to for the construction of railways on the invitation of Her Majesty's Government, as the following Despatches clearly point out:—On the 1st April 1857, Lord Grey intimated to Lord Elgin, "that Her Majesty's servants will not be slow to propose, nor, judging from the opinions generally expressed, would Parliament be slow to sanction the employment of the pecuniary resources of Great Britain, in furtherance of the construction of railways and canals for the purpose of promoting immigration and colonization in British North America." On the 14th March 1851, in a Despatch from Lord Grey to the Earl of Elgin, is enclosed a letter from Mr. Under-Secretary Hawes to Joseph Howe, Esq., dated 10th March 1851, wherein it is stated "that Her Majesty's Government were prepared to recommend to Parliament to give the guarantee of the Imperial credit to a loan for the construction of the proposed line of railway from Halifax to Quebec or Montreal, or to advance the funds required out of the British Treasury upon certain stipulated conditions." The Despatch of the Right Hon. Sir John Pakington to the Earl of Elgin, 20th May 1852, leads to the same encouragement, viz.:—That Her Majesty's Government are anxious to act with the most perfect good faith towards the Legislature and people of the British American Provinces, and to fulfil every just expectation that may have been held out by their predecessors. The Committee, reposing every confidence in the willingness of Her Majesty's Government to fulfil the just expectations held out to Her faithful subjects, entertain no doubt but that the Imperial Parliament will extend the guarantee of the nation to loan this Province her credit, which is about three per cent., for a limited period, upon the express condition that it be used for no other purpose than in reducing the public debt, by purchasing up Provincial and Municipal Debentures bearing six per cent., and, with this difference between Imperial and Provincial credit, creating a Sinking Fund with which the principal of the loan can be paid off within 18 years, which would be effected without the imposition of any tax on Her Majesty's subjects, either in England or here. It will be the means of improving public credit, and will enable the Government hereafter to obtain loans at the lowest rates of interest, for the redemption of the remainder of the Provincial debt. Your Committee would therefore recommend to the favourable consideration of the Government the moving of a joint Address to Her Majesty, praying that she may be pleased to propose to Her Imperial Parliament the granting of a loan to the Provincial Government of 5,000,000*l.*, payable in twenty years, for the above purpose.

(No. 3. *On the Commercial Policy of Great Britain, Canada, and the United States.*)

13. Your Committee have examined into the colonial commercial policy of Great Britain and Canada, also the commercial policy of the United States, the treaties and different acts under which that policy is enforced, and the results produced. In 1846, under the provisions of the Imperial Act 9 & 10 Vict., chap. 22., entitled "An Act to amend the Laws relating to the Importation of Corn," the productions of the United States were admitted into the markets of Great Britain upon the same terms as those of Canada, while no provision was made by the Imperial Government with the Government of the United States to admit the productions of Canada into their markets upon similar terms. The effect of this law was to depreciate the value of all articles grown or produced in Canada 20 per cent. under the value of like articles grown or produced in the United States, and this difference in value continued up to the year 1854, a period of nearly nine years. During that year the Imperial Act 9 & 10 Vict., cap. 94., entitled "An Act to enable certain British Possessions to reduce or repeal certain Customs Duties," became law, after nine years of continued application, public attention having been first drawn to the subject in the Legislative Assembly of Canada in 1837. In 1847, in deference to the opinions expressed in the Despatch of the 24th May 1843, under the Act of 1846, 9 & 10 Vict., cap. 94., duties on American manufactures were reduced from 12½ to 7½ per cent., and increased on British manufactures from 5 to 7½ per cent. The effect of this Act being to remove all

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discriminating duties against the United States. In 1849 the Provincial Legislature passed an Act [12 Vict. cap. 3.] authorizing the removal of duties on all articles being the growth or production of the United States, upon condition that the United States should pass a similar law. Up to this period the Legislature of Canada carried out the colonial commercial policy of Great Britain to the letter.

14. In 1854 the Reciprocity Treaty (which emanated from an Address of the House of Assembly in 1846) came into operation. By reference to the evidence of Mr. Wilkins, British Consul, Chicago; Mr. Worthington, Inspector of Ports for Upper Canada and others, appended hereto, [See App. Nos. 1 and 8,] it appears that the spirit and intention of the Reciprocity Treaty is being evaded. Under article third of this treaty the high contracting parties agree that the articles enumerated, being the growth and produce of the colonies, or the United States, shall be mutually admitted free of duty; grain, flour, and breadstuffs of all kinds being the principal articles named. In the Provincial Act of 1849 the words "growth or produce of either country" were inserted, but in the 3rd article of the treaty the word "and" was substituted for "or." This change was doubtless unintentional, but under the Customs regulations of the Treasury of the United States this portion of the treaty is interpreted to exclude flour and breadstuffs ground in Canada, from grain grown in the United States. As an illustration of this construction, although peas, as well as grain of all kinds ground in Canada, are admitted free, when split they become liable to duty. [See App. No. 9]. In article fourth the United States Government engages to urge upon the State Governments to secure to the subjects of Her Britannic Majesty the use of the several State canals on terms of equality with the inhabitants of the United States, proving clearly that unreserved reciprocity in its broadest sense was intended, and that no further restrictions were meant to be imposed on the articles named, or in the vessels carrying them between the two countries, than between separate States of the Union, and in that spirit have all the productions of the United States been received in this province. That it was so understood by the Treasury of the United States on the 12th February last is manifest from the instructions of the Treasury to the different Officers of Customs. [See Report of British Consul, App. A, page 41.] Your Committee therefore believe that on a clear representation of the facts being made to the Government of the United States, these restrictions will be removed.

15. They also beg to call the attention of the Provincial Government to the operation of the amended Customs Act of 1853. The 6th clause of the Act 12 Vict., cap. 1., enacts, "That in all cases where any duty is or shall be imposed on any goods imported into this province ad valorem, or according to the value thereof, such value shall be understood to be the actual cash value thereof in the principal markets in the country where the same were purchased, and whence they were exported to this province." The 3rd clause of the Act 16 Vict. cap. 85. (April 1853), repeals the above clause, and enacts, "That in all cases where any duty is or shall be imposed on any goods imported into this province ad valorem, or according to the value of such goods, such value shall be understood to be the fair market value thereof in the principal markets of the country, whence the same were exported directly to this province." Under the operation of the Act of 1849 a brisk trade sprang up between Halifax and Canada; under the operation of the Act of 1853 this trade was abandoned and transferred to New York.

16. On the 13th October 1854 a Committee of 12 Members of the Legislative Assembly was appointed to inquire into the commercial intercourse between Canada and Great Britain, North American Colonies, British West India Islands, the United States, and other foreign countries. After a laborious investigation on the 29th May 1855 they reported upon the results produced, which your Committee recommend to the careful consideration of the Imperial and Provincial Governments. From a close examination of the effects resulting from the existing commercial policy of Great Britain, Canada, and the United States, since the above report, your Committee find the trade of the province still remains practically under the control of the Government of the United States.

Your Committee therefore earnestly recommend:—

1st. That the despatch of 1843 be withdrawn, leaving the Legislature to regulate the duties on imports as heretofore under the Act of 1846, without restriction; also that an Address be presented to Her Majesty, representing the evasion of the Reciprocity Treaty, and praying that a negotiation with the Government of the United States may be entered into for the removal of all restrictions under the said treaty.

2nd. They also recommend the removal of all duties on the productions of the British possessions in America, so that precisely the same principle as exists in the intercourse between the different States of the American Union may be established in these Colonies.

3rd. That the principle of reciprocity with the United States be extended to manufactures, the registration of Canadian and United States built vessels, and to the shipping and coasting trade, in the same manner as to the productions of the soil.

4th. That the mode of imposing duties on imports, under the Act 12 Vict. cap. 1, sec. 6, be restored, leaving the consumer in the Western States and Canada subject to no greater duty, via the St. Lawrence, than by New York, and that the St. Lawrence Canals be immediately deepened, to admit vessels of the same draft of water as those which pass through the Welland Canal.

The whole, nevertheless, humbly submitted.

Committee Room, Legislative Assembly,
27th July 1858.

WM. HAMILTON MERRITT,
Chairman.

APPENDIX A.

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No. 1.

To the Hon. W. H. MERRITT, M. P. P., Chairman of the Committee to inquire into the Home and Foreign Trade, Legislative Assembly, Toronto, C. W.

British Consulate,
Chicago, July 6th, 1858.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward my reply to your request that I should transmit to you—

1. A statement of the course of trade between Chicago and Great Britain, shewing what portion goes to New York and what portion to Quebec.
2. What are the relative advantages in the coasting trade to American and Canadian ships?
3. What are the relative amounts of exports and imports by the canals and railways through the United States and the same through Canada?
4. In what manner the existing Treaties or Acts of the respective countries affect the present trade?
5. What remedies are required to place them on an equal footing?

1. Course of Trade between Chicago and Great Britain.

It must be understood that although a large amount of transatlantic merchandize ultimately finds a consuming market in the regions west of Lake Michigan, and the productions of the western states are distinctively quoted in European markets, nevertheless Lake Michigan ports cannot be said to have any direct trade with transatlantic countries.

The direct relations between European merchants and those of the western states of the Union are of a desultory and unimportant character.

Both as regards exports and imports, the direct trade of Lake Michigan is at present with markets to its eastward, through to the Atlantic seaboard, and no farther.

As regards the statistics bearing on the trade on the inland lakes, it must be remarked that they are not so exact or so satisfactorily arranged as their importance demands. Mr. Guthrie, the Secretary of the Treasury Department of the United States, in his annual report for the year 1856, says, "We have no data to ascertain the annual number of persons or the annual tons of freight carried in our coasting trade, nor the value thereof."

Regulations to remedy this are from time to time being instituted. The annexed tables are, however, sufficient approximations to warrant the deductions made from them, and as regards the trade from this port with Canada, are substantially correct.

The following tables are annexed:—

1. Total imports and exports received and shipped by rail and lake respectively, at port of Chicago, during 1857.
2. Analytical table shewing shipments from Chicago to British Provinces in British and American vessels.
3. Shewing trade in British vessels for four years.

It seems to be generally considered, that the effect of recent legislation of both countries, and the Reciprocity Treaty of June 5, 1854, has been to divert a great portion both of the import and export trade of Upper Canada across Lakes Ontario and Erie, which previously had its entrance and exit by the St. Lawrence River, to the prejudice of the forwarding and other interests, of Lower Canada, and to the benefit of New York State.

On the other hand, cereals and provisions from the United States bordering on Lakes Erie and Michigan now find their way down the St. Lawrence, to Montreal and Quebec. See Table 2.

The only imports to this lake, by way of the St. Lawrence River, worth notice in the proposed comparison, are railway iron and foreign salt. For various reasons, I think that these will never materially increase in quantity, even if they ever again reach the amount of former years.

For the last four years no railway iron has reached Chicago in British vessels.

It is in the trade with the western states that the equivalent for the diversion of Upper Canada trade from the St. Lawrence across the lakes should be found.

Whether this equivalent has been found, and under the existing international relations ever would be found, may be judged of by the comparisons and remarks following.

2. Relative advantages to Canadian and American Vessels.

Table 1. shews No. of tons shipped by lake from Chicago in 1857 - 507,600 tons.

Table 2. Shipment of same to Canada in British and American vessels:

British	-	-	-	-	-	-	23,454	
American	-	-	-	-	-	-	32,855	
								56,309
								451,291

Thus only one ninth could have been shipped in British vessels; actually less than one twentieth was. A strong inducement to Canadian purchasers to ship in American vessels, is, that cargoes afloat can be ordered either to American or Canadian markets, on arriving at the Welland Canal. Shipments in Canadian vessels must be discharged at a British port, and cannot be reshipped to the United States

under the Reciprocity Treaty. (See Appendix A. Remarks on Navigation Laws and Treasury Circular of 12 February 1858, requiring Consular certificates of the origin of shipments from Canada to the United States.)

In these remarks Chicago has been made the basis of comparison.

By taking imports and exports from Milwaukie, Racine, and Kenosha, on this lake, although no statistics are before me, my knowledge of the trade warrants the assertion that by including the trade with these points the comparison would be increased in favour of the United States.

Imports.

Table 1. shews receipts by lake during year 1857	- - -	1,316,355 tons.
Table 3. shews imports in British vessels, which, reduced to		
tons, gives about	- - - - -	19,28
		<hr/> 1,297,074

As regards Table 1., which, for the reason stated above, is scarcely more than an estimate, it must be remarked that of the total receipts 739,000 tons are of lumber, a very large proportion of which was from the United States shores of St. Clare River, Lakes Huron and Michigan, and 134,000 tons of coals from Cleveland.

Probably some 200,000 tons were carried from Buffalo and points east of the Welland Canal, consisting of general merchandise of home and foreign production.

Table 3., which can be relied on, shows the quantity imported in British vessels in the aggregate about 19,000.

Carrying Trade across Lakes Erie and Ontario.

I have no means of estimating the proportion of the carrying trade across Lakes Ontario and Erie in Canadian and American vessels.

The impression I find entertained is, that it is largely in favour of American vessels.

The table, p. 204, in the Trade and Navigation Returns (Canada) for 1856, does not determine this but taking the totals of the entries inwards and outwards given in that table, it appears that the Americans are $\frac{5}{12}$ of the whole.

The table appears to include the coasting trade, which must be done in British vessels.

This result certainly points to the conclusion, either that the proportion of the coasting trade is very small, or that the larger share of the international trade is done by American vessels. If this be the case it would seem that by the operation of the existing laws and treaty the shipping of Canada competes unsuccessfully with that of the United States in the trade across the Lakes; and that in the anticipated equivalent to be found in the trade with the Western States (taking this port as a basis), the United States vessels engross all but a trifling portion of the carrying trade westward; and in the eastward trade the one-ninth, which could lawfully be done by British vessels, was last year shared nearly equally by American. The restrictions against American vessels carrying Canadian produce coastwise, so far as regards timber and staves from the St. Clare River and Lake Erie is, I am informed, evaded by shipping to French Creek (Clayton), and then rafting to Quebec, which would seem to be as much an evasion of the British Navigation Laws and breach of the Reciprocity Treaty as carrying wheat from Chicago to Kingston in a British vessel, and transshipping it to Ogdensburgh or Oswego. See Appendix A. I have no personal knowledge on this matter, but am told that contracts have this year been made by Americans to carry timber and staves in the way described.

This trade is a very desirable one to British vessels, and several masters of vessels have spoken to me about it. See fol. 42.

Again, is any Canadian produce manufactured in the United States and reshipped to Canada, e. g., Canadian wheat floured at Oswego to Montreal.

Relative Amounts of Exports and Imports by Rail and Canal.

3. What are the relative Amounts of Exports and Imports by the Canals and Railways through the United States, and the same through Canada? On this point my observations would be of no value.

I beg to refer your Committee to the annexed tables, Nos. 1 and 5, furnished me by J. McAlpine, Esq., and to that gentleman's reports on the canals of New York for the years 1852 and 1853. I have his permission to state, that five years' subsequent experience have confirmed him in the conclusions then arrived at.

With regard to the shipments from Chicago by railway eastward, it may be stated that the most of the articles of hog's lard, pork, and flour, which constitute a large portion of the whole, are shipped by railway during the close of navigation.

The subject of your inquiry has been further discussed in the report of Messrs. Childe, McAlpine, and Kirkwood, C.E., on the trade and navigation of the St. Lawrence, which is probably before your Committee.

In this connexion I would make two remarks,—

1st. That in such articles as pork, flour, lard, &c. the trade with Main and other Eastern states, during the winter months, by the Grand Trunk Railway cannot, under the present construction of the Reciprocity Treaty, be done, except by sending articles through in bond to the United States line. They cannot be carried to Montreal and resold to enter the United States under the Reciprocity Treaty. See Appendix A.

2d. That, until a trade in general merchandise between the Canadian seaboard and the Western States is established, the Grand Trunk traffic for the Western States will be little more than passengers and express parcels.

[See Appendix B. Remarks on United States Tariff Laws as impeding growth of trade between Montreal and Chicago.]

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4. *Manner in which Acts or Treaties of respective Countries affect the present Trade.*

1st. United States laws and construction of treaties :

Even if direct commercial relations with Great Britain were established, the following regulations must be complied with to entitle the merchandise passing through Canada in bond to be entered at a United States lake port on the same terms as at New York.

See Appendix B.

1. It must appear by the invoice they were intended for a particular port.
2. Their identity must be traced by affidavit of transhipper.
3. Ownership must not have changed in Canada.
4. The continuity of the voyage must not be broken for an unreasonable time; and,
5. The whole amount named in the invoice must be forwarded for entry.

Though in theory these appear simple, yet in practice they all give rise to inconveniences, and would certainly check the growth of a trade which can be done by other channels free from any restrictions.

2d. The construction of the United States tariff laws, which prevents merchants at Montreal and Quebec for competing for trade of the Western States in general merchandize of foreign productions and manufacture, whilst New York can compete in various articles with Montreal and Quebec in Western Canada.

See Appendix B.

I would respectfully call the attention of your Committee to the decision of the United States Supreme Court, mentioned therein.

Last year I obtained a portion of a consignment of castor oil, imported into Montreal from Calcutta, and offered it for entry here at the value in Great Britain. In the face of that decision, the only objection offered was, that it must be accompanied by an invoice from Montreal, and that if the invoice showed a higher value than the markets of Great Britain the duty must be assessed on the value of the invoice.

This was not clear, however, and the article was entered during my absence at the London price, on the understanding that it was not to be considered a precedent.

If, in the view of your Committee, taking into consideration the yearly increasing connexion between the provinces and the Western States of the Union, a trade such as is indicated in Appendix B is likely to ensue were these tariff difficulties removed. I beg to suggest that a case be carried to the Supreme Court at Washington for decision there.

This course has the advantage over applying for the action of the United States Federal Legislature in this, that the Western States of the Union would be in favor of opening up a new purchasing market for foreign merchandise, and in the event of the Supreme Court of the United States deciding that the existing laws permit such trade, the rival interests of New York and Boston would find as great difficulties in getting this privilege to the Western States interfered with as Canada and the Western States combined would meet with in obtaining an alteration of existing laws.

The case would have been tested before had the amounts involved been sufficiently large.

3rdly. The construction of the Reciprocity Treaty by which western cereals and provisions shipped to Canada cannot be re-shipped to the United States. See Appendix A.

4. *The Navigation Laws of the United States.*

The importance of obtaining an alteration in the policy of the United States Government on these questions as regards the trade of the inland lakes is shewn by the results of the present trade, and as regards the future its significance may be illustrated thus :—

In the event of a ship canal connecting the St. Lawrence with Lake Champlain being made, and a route to New York without any transhipment for the produce of the Western States being opened up, all this trade must be done in American vessels, so long as the United States laws requires that "No goods shall be imported under penalty of forfeiture thereof from one port in the United States to another port of the United States in a vessel belonging wholly or in part to a subject of any foreign power." Act of Congress, March 3rd 1817, sec. 4. See Appendix A, with Mr. Guthrie's remarks.

The United States laws do not admit foreign built vessels to registry. And further, even where the vessel is American and sold to a British owner will not allow a re-registry as an American vessel. An owner (who also is master) of one of the finest British sail vessels which trades with this port finding the difficulties his vessel laboured under in this trade, expressed his intention of becoming an American citizen and enrolling his vessel under the American flag. He found, however, that although he would have no difficulty in becoming a citizen himself he could not take his vessel with him.

Appendix C treats of the difference between the laws of Canada and the United States relating to inland shipping, and the uncertainty existing as to what laws govern the titles of the inland shipping of Canada.

Lastly. What Remedy is required to place the Trade on an equal Footing?

In the foregoing remarks my aim has been to shew the national disadvantages under which the

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province of Canada labours in her trade with the Western States, especially as regards the development of the advantages and position she possesses in her natural water communication with them.

On the extent of these advantages over the other routes to the Atlantic seaboard and Europe I have not touched.

These have been fully discussed in reports of able engineers and in the published remarks of practical merchants.

Indeed it has seemed to me that these have been too much relied on as alone sufficient for the development of the expected trade, whilst the national position and disadvantages have been too little considered.

The protective policy of the United States in her tariff and navigation laws, and her construction of the Reciprocity Treaty, foster the growth of her inland marine and preserve the trade with the Western States of the Union to her own channels, whilst in that portion of the carrying trade open to the Canadian vessel owner he has to meet the American in competition at all points with the exception of the coasting trade of Canada, and even a portion of that appears in practice to be divided.

The remedy lies in the action of the United States.

I am aware of the difficulties which presented themselves in former negotiations previous to the conclusion of the Reciprocity Treaty, but it must be recollected that since those negotiations took place the North-western States of the Union have immensely increased in national importance.

They have found a valuable customer in the province of Canada, and by the use of the Welland Canal established relations with their own ports in Lake Ontario which could not otherwise exist.

With the exception of the vessel interest, which is very small in comparison with others, I think that the whole of the North-western States would raise their voice for any fair concessions in international intercourse.

My own observations are necessarily local.

I shall be obliged for suggestions directing attention to any points which your Committee may consider of value.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. EDWARD WILKINS.

APPENDIX A.

REMARKS on Navigation Laws, and United States Treasury Circular of 12th February 1858, requiring Consular Certificates of the origin of Shipments from Canada to the United States.

THE construction of the Reciprocity Treaty by the United States Government, which appears to have been received with some surprise in Canada, has for two years past been acted on at this point with regard to the article of lumber.

Pine logs, the growth of the United States, were floated over to the Canadian shores from Michigan, and cut into lumber in such a way that had the logs been the growth of Canada the lumber would have been admitted free under the Reciprocity Treaty.

This was shipped from Canada to Chicago, and on entry here was charged with a duty of thirty per cent., on the ground that it was not entitled to a free entry as it was not the growth of Canada.

As regards the trade between the primary markets of the Western States and the distributing markets of Canada, of which Montreal is the chief, the practice of grinding into flour wheat brought from the Western States, in Montreal or St. Catharines, and sending it to the United States for sale, independently of the effect of diminishing the grist to the mills of the United States distributing markets of Buffalo, Rochester, Oswego, and Ogdensburg, is probably considered as tending to an indirect violation of the 4th section of the Act of Congress of March 3rd 1817, intituled "An Act concerning the Navigation of the United States," which enacts that "No goods, &c. shall be imported, under penalty of forfeiture thereof, from one port in the United States to another port in the United States in a vessel belonging wholly or in part to a subject of any foreign power,"—the basis of the system of "Coasting laws," especially referred to and advocated by Mr. Secretary Guthrie in his annual report for 1856, as follows:—

"The coasting trade of the United States has from the beginning been strictly reserved for vessels built within the United States, to the exclusion of foreign built and foreign owned vessels." * * *

In the protection given to our shipping interest there appears to have been but little division of sentiment from the earliest times to the present, whilst the yearly increase of our tonnage proves the wisdom of our laws in this particular.

Ever since the commencement of the trade the restrictions imposed on British vessels by this law have been found to place them at great disadvantage with United States vessels, and various attempts were made to establish the position that if a transshipment of the goods takes place in Canada, the United States law would not be infringed.

In some cases which arose in the autumn of 1856 the Treasury Department decided that this was an infringement of the law, and made seizures of some wheat belonging to a United States citizen, that had been shipped from Chicago to Ogdensburg in a British vessel, to be transhipped at Kingston, Canada West. The wheat was released on the ground that no fraud was intended.

During the season of 1857, as these views were well understood, nothing of the kind occurred at this point; and I did not notice any indication of further action on the part of the United States Government, until the issue of a Treasury circular dated 12th February last, requiring all shipments of

merchandise claiming to be entitled to free entry under the Reciprocity Treaty, to be accompanied by a Consular certificate "that it is the growth or produce of the Province." *

By a Treasury Circular dated May 2nd 1855, these certificates had been dispensed with to obviate expense and inconvenience in the intercourse between the British Provinces and the United States under the Reciprocity Treaty.

The object of their renewal, by the circular of 12th February last, is, undoubtedly, to protect the manufacturing interests of the United States, and the carrying trade on their coasts to their own vessels, and in their own channel of commerce, as well as for statistical purposes.

It rests with the Canadian Government to decide whether it would be advisable to adopt a like course for similar reasons.

By reference to the tables forwarded herewith, it will be found that nearly one million bushels of wheat were shipped by vessel from this port alone to Kingston and Montreal during the year 1857.

A settlement of this matter is looked for with interest at this point, although I do not think the full effect of the action of the United States Government is generally comprehended, namely, that it will cut off the North-eastern States as markets for all kinds of produce of the Western States, which collect at Montreal, whether manufactured there or not. It is not because it is manufactured in Canada, but because the wheat is not grown there, that the article of flour is excluded from the terms of the treaty.

I have no means of estimating the extent to which the trade between this lake and Montreal will be prejudiced.

I am informed by a merchant engaged in this trade that the shipments of flour alone, for this year, already amount to forty thousand barrels to Montreal.

None of this can be resold to the United States, the supplies for which have been a considerable item in the trade.

In connexion with this subject it may be noted that one of the advantages of position of Montreal as a market for western produce is contained in the following extracts from the report of Messrs. Childe, McAlpine, and Kirkwood, on the trade and navigation of the St. Lawrence:—

"The value of such a water power (Montreal) is enhanced by being located in close contiguity to the dense population along the Atlantic, where the offal has the greatest value.

"A considerable portion of the surplus of the west is required for consumption in the manufacturing districts of New England. * * * The interior of New England can be supplied from Montreal cheaper than from any other direction, and the monopoly of this trade may be counted upon as being long to this route."

Under this construction, the mills must grind for home consumption and European export, not for the expected markets of Maine and New Hampshire.

J. E. W.

APPENDIX B.

On Tariff Laws of United States as they affect the Import Trade between Chicago and the Canadian Seaboard.

In the short history of this trade the following fact is noticeable, that whilst the produce of the Western States have to a large extent found their ultimate markets in Great Britain, the amount of European productions imported by that route, and entered for duty at Chicago, though small in 1854, is less in 1855, and still less in 1856, shewing the only retrograde movement in the trade, with the exception of a small quantity of pig iron and salt (partly coarse Liverpool, and partly Mediterranean). The imports in British vessels are of the provincial productions of Lumber and fish.

It was confidently hoped that the result as regards the import trade would have been different, but independently of other reasons, the growth of this trade has been materially checked by a lukewarmness produced amongst merchants of both countries from the operation of the United States Tariff laws as enforced by the Customs authorities at this port under the direction of the United States Treasury Department.

No goods, the production of Great Britain or any foreign country, can be entered as direct importations at any United States port on these lakes (when brought by way of the St. Lawrence River), unless the following regulations are complied with:—

- 1st. It must appear they were intended for a particular port.
- 2nd. Their identity must be traced by affidavit of transhipper.
- 3rd. Ownership must not have changed in Canada.
- 4th. The continuity of the voyage must not be broken for an unreasonable time; and,
- 5th. The whole amount named in the invoice must be forwarded for entry.

If these regulations be not complied with, it is insisted that the "goods are liable to be assessed on their wholesale value in the principal markets in Canada at the period of their exportation therefrom." Hence, a merchant in Cleveland, Cincinnati, Toledo, Detroit, Milwaukee, or Chicago, six cities, with an aggregate population of 400,000, cannot buy any goods in bond in Montreal or other Canadian market without paying duty on the market value of the article in Canada, whereas, in the markets on the United States seaboard, all articles can be purchased in bond, subject to an ad valorem duty on their value in the principal markets of the countries whence last imported.

* The words of the treaty are "growth and produce." In the form adopted by the United States Treasury Circular, the words "growth or produce" are used.

CANADA.

This disadvantage is the more remarked, as the United States markets have of late attracted the trade of Western Canada from its own seaboard.

Were this tariff prohibition removed, and the Canadian seaboard markets placed on the same footing as those of New York and Boston, it is thought that the wholesale merchants in Canada could successfully cultivate relations with the western cities above named, which would justify them in increasing their yearly stock of imports, and that they could bid for a share of the western trade by cheaper rates of freight and quicker despatch in forwarding the merchandise. The completion of the Grand Trunk Railway perfects the link of railway communication between the Western States and the Canadian seaboard.

I have endeavoured to investigate the real state of the United States tariff laws on this point, and find that the remarks on the state of these revenue laws by Mr. Secretary Guthrie in his annual Treasury Report are very pertinent; they are as follows:—

“The revenue laws consist of various Acts of Congress commencing with the organization of the Government, with so many amending, repealing, and conflicting provisions that it is difficult to ascertain what is in force, consequently what is the law upon any particular point.” A case materially bearing on this subject has been recently reported in the Supreme Court of the United States at Washington. By that case (*Stairs v. Peaselee*, 18 Howard Reports,) it was decided that merchandise, a production of the East Indies only, which was shipped and invoiced from Halifax in Nova Scotia to Boston, United States, must be assessed according to its value in the principal markets of the British dominions. That it was for the merchant appraisers to decide what these markets were, and that they did right in appraising them at their value in London and Liverpool as the principal markets in Great Britain, and not at Halifax, from which they were brought into the United States.

Also, that the word “country” used in this connexion embraces all the possessions of a foreign state, however widely separated, which are subject to the same supreme executive and legislative control.

In this case the value at Halifax was less than that in London and Liverpool.

The principle laid down by Chief Justice Taney in his judgment would seem to cover the converse where goods shipped and invoiced to United States from any port within the British provinces have a higher value than in the principal wholesale market of the British dominions.

Now following this construction, the duty on such articles as pig, bar, railway iron, crockery, hardware, salt, various manufactures, ale, beer, &c., should be assessed on their value in the largest wholesale market within the British dominions, as Glasgow, Staffordshire, Liverpool, Cardiff, Sheffield, Manchester, Leeds, London, and certainly not on their value in the limited markets of Quebec or Montreal.

The Western States of the Union would favour any measure which would promote commercial intercourse with the British provinces.

Opposition, on the other hand, would be met with in New York.

It must be borne in mind that the navigation of the Welland Canal (British owned) by American vessels has permitted a very extensive carrying trade between New York and Boston, and the Western States by way of the United States lake ports of Ogdensburgh and Oswego to be built up, which could not exist without the use of this canal.

Nevertheless, British provincial vessels are excluded from any share of this carrying trade by the operation of the United States coasting laws, and the growth of a similar trade from the British seaboard beyond the provincial boundaries westward is checked as above described.

APPENDIX C.

On the difference between the Laws of Canada and the United States, relating to Inland Shipping, &c. &c.

There are many matters relating to the British mercantile marine on the inland water which are not generally understood.

I have been occasionally applied to for advice in matters of title; and here the question has arisen, how far the Imperial Acts are intended to apply to shipping wholly employed in the inland navigation.

I have found that a diversity of opinion was entertained upon this subject.

In a recent case, Sir John Robinson, the Chief Justice of Upper Canada, in delivering judgment, says on this point:

“It is indeed not as clear as it might have been made whether the statute of 8 and 9 Vict. c. 89, “was intended to apply to shipping wholly employed in the inland navigation of our lakes and rivers; “but the 20th clause of the 12th and 13th Vict. c. 29, seems to assume that it was so intended, and it “appears to have been so understood by our Legislature.”

The above decision also refers to the second part of the Merchants’ Shipping Act of 1854, relating to British ships, their ownership, measurement, and registry, which applies to the whole of Her Majesty’s dominions.

In the marginal remarks to Return No. 1 of 1856, I mentioned certain inconveniences to which British vessels trading with this lake (Michigan) were subject. These have existed during the past season, and with this addition, that British vessels have been libelled in the United States courts at this and other ports for claims alleged to be due, accruing in Canada, and in some cases from former owners. Of such cases I will speak more fully in treating of the conflict existing between the laws of the British provinces and the United States regulating their inland shipping. During the two years of my residence here the settlement of differences between "masters and seamen" has been a subject of considerable difficulty.

It is admitted that such questions are much embarrassed by the absence of any colonial enactments bearing thereon; and by the jurisdiction assumed in such cases by the United States courts, until the last few years, the trade in "British Plantation Vessels" was confined either to their own coasts or to short voyages of a few days' duration between the British ports and those on the United States shores of Lake Ontario. This last season from 120 to 140 voyages have been made from British ports on Lake Ontario to Chicago, Milwaukee, and Racine on Lake Michigan, a distance of over 1,200 miles each way, each voyage occupying about six weeks, and the average complement of each vessel being ten sailors.

I cannot give a correct estimate of the like voyages made to the American ports of Buffalo, Cleveland, Toledo, and Detroit, on Lake Erie; but the number must be very considerable. As far as I can ascertain, there is no colonial provision requiring agreements with seamen to be made in writing, such as is enjoined in Section 149 of the Merchants' Shipping Act, 1854, in foreign-going vessels in the United Kingdom, but the same laws which relate to masters and servants, regulate the relations between masters and seamen; that is, a parol hiring is sufficient. The terms and duration of service, where no special agreement is made, being controlled by custom.

This trade is of such a recent date that no custom has been established. I believe, in the majority of instances the engagements are intended to last from Lake Ontario to Lake Michigan and back, embracing a period of about six weeks. The consequence is, that, on arrival at a foreign port, disputes arise as to the nature of the contract.

I have known as many as eleven libels or attachments on British vessels in one day issued by Courts of various degrees in this port. By the United States laws, agreements between masters and seamen are required to be in writing in all voyages between one State and another on the inland waters, laying the master under penalty for default; and, in the absence of such agreement, the seaman's testimony is received and wages allowed for services actually performed. In a trade where navigation is closed for five months in the year, despatch to vessels is of the utmost consequence, and masters frequently elect to pay the demands and ship fresh men even at higher rates, than to be subjected to delay and litigation. I have often attended on the trial of these cases in some of the inferior courts, and pointed out the state of the laws regulating these matters in the British provinces, and contended that, even admitting the jurisdiction, the question should be decided in uniformity with the laws of the country to which the vessel belonged, and where the contract was made, and on similar evidence.

I am confident that these difficulties would be materially abated and justice more often satisfied by an adaptation of those sections of the "Merchants' Shipping Act, 1854," relating to engagements with the crew to such British colonial vessel. Sections 288, 290, of that Act seem to have been framed in view of such a case.

These circumstances make the application of the "Merchants' Shipping Act, 1854," by Her Majesty's Consuls in these lakes somewhat difficult, *e. g.*, that part of Section 109 relating to provisions applicable to colonial ships is stated to apply to all ships registered in any of Her Majesty's dominions abroad where any of such ships are out of the jurisdiction of their respective governments, and to the owners, masters, and crews of ships.

Amongst the cases there named are:—

- First, rights to wages and remedies for the recovery thereof.
- Second, shipping and discharge of seamen in foreign ports.
- Third, to leaving seamen abroad.
- Fourth, relief of seamen in distress in foreign ports.

As to remedies and wages I have spoken above. Section 160 enacts, that all seamen shall be shipped and discharged in a foreign port before the Consul under a penalty for neglect.

With the exception of that of the "Madeira Pet," the only British foreign-going ship which has ever arrived here, this has in no case been done.

I have pointed out the provision to the masters of vessels, but under existing circumstances have not deemed it advisable to endeavour to force it, for although it would seem to be in conformity with the wording of the Act and with the practice which I understand exists regarding colonial vessels trading with the seaboard ports of Boston and New York, yet the fact of part of the crew being shipped under articles from Chicago, and the remainder under a parol engagement from a Canadian port, appears incongruous and contrary to the spirit (though not to the letter) of the proviso contained in Section 149. Moreover, in the establishment of this consulate I have been unwilling to impose any duties which might appear in the light of burdens on the shipping interest, unless clearly defined by the laws, either British or American.

The subject of the relief of seamen in distress ranks properly in this connexion.

CANADA.

In close connexion with the foregoing there is a subject well worthy of examination, viz. :—The difference in the laws and legal procedure regulating the British and American maritime interests on the inland lakes and the consequence of such difference.

In the British provinces the admiralty jurisdiction does not extend above tide water, and consequently as there is no court of admiralty, or other court competent to give a remedy (in rem.) against the vessels, the proceedings both arising out the contracts on account of the vessels, and from wrongs committed by them, is only by personal suit against the owners.

In the United States, however, an admiralty jurisdiction on the inland lakes has from the earliest times been recognized, and in 1845 Congress enacted :—

“That the district courts have the same jurisdiction in matters of contract and tort concerning steamboats and other vessels of twenty tons burthen and upwards, enrolled and licensed for the coasting trade and employed in business of commerce and navigation between ports and places in different states and territories upon the lakes and navigable waters connecting said lakes, and is now exercised and possessed by the said courts in cases of like steamboats and other vessels employed in navigation and commerce upon the high seas or tide waters within the admiralty and maritime jurisdiction of the United States. The maritime laws of the United States, as far as the same is or may be applicable thereto, shall constitute the rule of decision in such suits, in the same manner and to the same extent, and with the same equities as it now does in cases of admiralty and maritime jurisdiction with the saving of the rights of trial by jury, and of a concurrent remedy at common law in competent cases.”

And in 1851 the Supreme Court of the United States decided that the admiralty and maritime jurisdiction granted to the Federal Government by the constitution of the United States is not limited to tide waters but extends to all public navigable lakes and rivers where commerce is carried on between different states or with a foreign nation. Propeller “Genesee Chief” vs. Fitz Hugh et al, 12 Howard U. S. Rep. 443. In delivering judgment in this case, Chief Justice Taney discussed at length the policy of extending admiralty jurisdiction to inland waters.

Thus, in the United States claims can be enforced in admiralty with or without a jury against the vessel itself, or at common law by personal suit against the owner at election of the plaintiff, whilst in the British provinces the latter remedy only is available.

It is only natural that United States citizens should prefer their own courts where the choice lies with them, but proceedings against British vessels in the United States admiralty courts are becoming frequent where the subject matter of litigation, the evidence and the parties to the suit are all within the jurisdiction of the British Provincial Courts.

For example, in cases of contracts for work, materials, supplies, etc., for which in Canada the contracting parties alone are liable, it has happened that in event of disputes or insolvency opportunity has been watched of libelling the vessel in a foreign port.

In some of these cases the vessel had charged owners subject to the dates of the claims.

Also where a collision take place between two British vessels, the only remedy in Canada is against the owner of the vessel in default.

The United States laws offer the additional remedy by suit in admiralty against the ship.

Again, where an American vessel is in default in a collision or injury done to British ships, the only remedy in the provincial courts is by personal suit against the owners, who probably do not reside within the jurisdiction.

It is unnecessary for me to enter further into detail here. I am not aware whether this subject has had the attention either of the Imperial or Provincial Governments, but have considered it my duty to state the evils which experience has shown me do exist, and to endeavour to point out some of the causes. For, even supposing the most friendly relations to exist between the two countries, and admitting that there is no reason why the one should be afraid to trust to the equity of the courts of the others, it is submitted that inconveniences and confusion must necessarily result where an admiralty procedure under a maritime code is recognized by the one only, especially where the two flags meet in waters British or American, or common to both.

Should admiralty jurisdiction be extended above tide water, I would suggest that legislation thereon should be as much in uniformity with the Federal Laws of the United States now in force as circumstances permit, unless there are strong reasons to the contrary.

The conflict between the laws of the different States of the American Union, where such exists is fuel to the fire of litigation.

In the above statement I have not given any instances in detail, but I do not think it is asserting too much to say that each port in the British provinces to which a vessel engaged in this trade belongs can furnish some evidence in corroboration.

J. E. W.

COMPARATIVE ANALYTICAL TABLE, showing Exports from Chicago, U. S., to Great Britain and British Provinces, for the year ending 31 December 1857, in British and American vessels.

			Wheat.	Corn.	Oats.	Pork.	Flour.	Tallow.	Lard.	Sundries.
			Bus. of 60 lbs.	Bus. of 56 lbs.	Bus. of 32 lbs.	Barrels.	Barrels.	Lbs.	Lbs.	
British, Collingwood,	C. W.	do.	32,742	20,621	4,031	107	—	—	—	4,000 lbs. hams, 6,000 lbs. shoulders, 2 firkins butter, 2 bbls. beans.
American do.	do.	do.	16,364	7,803	—	537	414	9,250	3,050	27,242 lbs. dried sides.
British, Port Stanley,	do.	do.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
American do.	do.	do.	5,309	8,548	4,003	—	—	—	—	—
British, Welland,	do.	do.	16,135	—	—	—	200	—	—	—
American do.	do.	do.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
British, Thorold,	do.	do.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
American do.	do.	do.	5,000	9,000	—	—	—	—	—	7 bls. beef, 10 bls. mutton hams, 8 bls. pigs' tongues, 1 bl. herring.
British, St. Catharines,	do.	do.	90,577	21,787	—	100	—	—	—	34 hams, 27 sides.
American do.	do.	do.	122,015	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
British, Wellington Square,	do.	do.	12,500	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
American do.	do.	do.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7 hhds. meat.
British, Hamilton,	do.	do.	—	10,000	7,522	60	150	—	—	—
American do.	do.	do.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
British, Toronto,	do.	do.	—	51,042	—	8	—	—	—	9 bus. beans.
American do.	do.	do.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
British, Port Hope,	do.	do.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
American do.	do.	do.	13,137	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
British, Cobourg,	do.	do.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
American do.	do.	do.	—	10,240	—	—	—	—	—	—
British, Kingston,	do.	do.	225,655	110,220	—	213	623	8,100	—	400 bags.
American do.	do.	do.	585,246	217,855	—	810	1,055	30,000	—	—
British, Montreal,	C. E.	do.	131,187	20,000	—	500	8,978	24,150	—	17½ tons brown corn, 1 shingle machine, 400 bags, 26 bbls. hemp.
American do.	do.	do.	40,090	26,521	—	699	1,443	63,836	490,000	18 bags beans.
British, Quebec,	do.	do.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
American do.	do.	do.	10,000	—	—	—	580	10,500	—	—
British, Liverpool,	G. B.	do.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,648 hides.
										194 tons in British. 22½ tons in American.
British, total	.	.	508,796	233,670	11,553	988	9,956	32,250	—	Total British in tons - 23,454½ tons
American, total	.	.	797,180	279,967	4,003	2,046	3,492	113,586	493,050	Total American in tons - 32,855½ tons
Grand total	.	.	1,305,976	513,637	15,556	3,034	13,448	145,836	493,050	Grand total in tons - 56,309½ tons
Totals reduced to tons {			15,263½ tons	6,542½ tons	184½ tons	158½ tons	1,095½ tons	16½ tons	—	} Difference in favour of American - 9,400 tons
{			23,914½ tons	7,839½ tons	64½ tons	327½ tons	384½ tons	56½ tons	240½ tons	

No. 3.

COMPARATIVE TABLE, showing Number of British Vessels arrived at and departed from the Port of Chicago, U. S., from and for Great Britain and British Provinces, their tonnage, nature, and total value of cargoes for the years 1854, 1855, 1856, 1857.

ENTRIES.	1854.		1855.		1856.		1857.	
	Inwards.	Outwards.	Inwards.	Outwards.	Inwards.	Outwards.	Inwards.	Outwards.
No. of vessels	5	6	77	61	110	104	119	101
Tonnage	1,193	1,482	16,619	13,000	26,700	25,472	29,389	24,103
Lumber	—	—	7,209,494	—	17,225,658	—	15,443,984	—
Lath	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,940½	—
Shingles	—	—	—	—	—	—	592	—
Fuel wood	—	—	179½	—	450	—	921	—
Fish	—	—	1,402	—	—	—	144	—
Oil	—	—	70	—	—	—	—	—
Salt	—	—	75,757	—	85,435	—	53,310	—
Pig iron	1,053	—	818	—	355	—	446	—
Bar iron	—	—	167½	—	—	—	35½	—
Peas	—	—	100	—	—	—	—	—
Oatmeal	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—
Wheat	—	34,584	—	402,780	—	566,585	—	508,796
Corn	—	24,750	—	139,802	—	384,817	—	233,670
Oats	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11,553
Pork	—	1,647	—	6,091	—	6,813	—	988
Flour	—	—	—	2,633	—	5,810	—	9,956
Bacon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10,800
Hams	—	—	—	27,003	—	15,600	—	340
Hides	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,648
Live hogs	—	—	—	—	—	152	—	—
Tallow	—	7,570	—	126,000	—	90,000	—	32,250
Lard	—	65,754	—	31,460	—	359,400	—	—
Hemp	—	50,000	—	—	—	—	—	26,000
Beef	—	—	—	2,271	—	—	—	56,000
Value in sterling	5,178 2 6	16,429 7 6	28,856 6 8	173,922 1 8	47,140 3 7	203,186 15 1	40,384 1 3	183,389 0 4½
							19,281 tons	23,454½ tons

COMPARATIVE TABLE, showing the Export Trade from Chicago, U.S., to Great Britain and British Provinces, in British American Vessels, for the year ending 31st December 1857.

	Number of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Value of Cargoes.	Remarks.
American - -	83	26,522	£ 197,911 5s. 6d. sterling.	Tonnage United States measurement.
British - -	101	24,103	£ 183,309 0s. 4½d. „	Tonnage British measurement.

(APPENDIX A, No. 2.)

THE extent of trade diverted to the sea ports in the United States in 1856 was 6,183,433 against 594,755 tons to sea ports in Canada.

In that year 4,022,617 tons were transported on the Erie (boat) canal, against 976,656 tons on the Welland (ship) canal, of which 625,132 tons were to and from United States ports, against 351,524 tons to and from Canadian ports, leaving only 243,231 tons from Lake Ontario to make up the 594,755 tons passing up and down the St. Lawrence to the sea board through Canada.

The traffic on the New York Central Railways, leading to and from the Lakes was about two millions of tons. No return of the Grand Trunk railway is at hand to contrast the number of tons between Prescott and Montreal.

During the same year out of 634,536 tons transported on the St. Lawrence (steamboat) canals only 39,681, tons passed to and from the United States, near 400,000 tons consisted of wood, timber, earth, and minerals, leaving some 200,000 tons of merchandise, and the productions of agriculture, to and from the sea ports of Montreal and Quebec.

The comparative value of traffic on the New York canals was \$218,326,362. The value through the canals in Canada is not given in the Trade and Navigation Return.

The return of toll on the New York canals was \$2,748,212; on the Canadian canal \$304,888, \$266,420 for the Welland, and \$77,720 for the St. Lawrence.—(Canal Commissioners Report, State N. Y., 1858, pages 14 and 231, and Trade and Navigation Returns 1856, page 218.)

(APPENDIX A, No. 3.)

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the Number of Emigrants arrived at Quebec from the year 1844 to 1850, both inclusive.

WHENCE.	1844.	1845.	1846.	1847.	1848.	1849.	1850.
England and Wales - - -	7,698	8,833	9,163	28,725	6,034	8,980	9,887
Ireland - - - - -	9,993	14,208	21,049	50,360	16,582	23,126	17,976
Scotland - - - - -	2,234	2,174	1,645	3,628	3,086	4,984	2,879
Lower Ports - - - -	217	160	—	—	842	968	701
	20,142	25,375	31,857	82,713	26,544	38,058	31,443
Countries of Europe - - -	—	—	896	7,437	1,395	436	849
Grand Total - - -	20,142	25,375	32,753	90,150	27,939	38,494	32,292

A. C. BUCHANAN,
Chief Agent.

Government Emigration Office,
Quebec, 23 June 1858.

Letters from the Secretary of State referred to the Committee on Commerce, May 3, 1852, page 35, gives the number of emigrants arriving at New York in 1851 at 331,276.

W. E. GRIFFITH,
Clerk to Committee.

(APPENDIX A, No. 4.)

REPORT of Mr. McALPINE, State Engineer and Surveyor, February 9, 1854.

IN an investigation of the comparative advantages of the several channels of communication between the interior and the seaboard, charges cannot be relied upon, because they fluctuate on the various routes and on the different articles conveyed; competition reducing them to a minimum, and monopoly raising

them to a maximum. The cost, however, furnishes a more reliable basis, as the elements on which it depends are usually effected alike on the different routes.

The cost may be assumed at about two-thirds of the charges, and are as follows:—

TABLE of the Cost of Transport, per ton per mile.

Ocean long voyage	- - - - -	1 mill.
„ short „	- - - - -	2 to 4 mills.
Lakes, long „	- - - - -	2 „
„ short „	- - - - -	3 to 4 „
Rivers Hudson and of similar character	- - - - -	2, 5 „
„ St. Lawrence and Mississippi	- - - - -	3 „
„ Tributaries of Mississippi	- - - - -	5 to 10 „
Canals, Erie enlargement	- - - - -	4 „
„ Other large, but shorter	- - - - -	5 to 6 „
„ Ordinary size	- - - - -	5 „
„ „ „ with great lockage	- - - - -	6 to 8 „
Railroads transporting coal	- - - - -	6 to 10 „
„ not for coal, favourable lines and grades	- - - - -	12, 5 „
„ „ steep grades, &c.	- - - - -	15 to 20 „

Hon. W. H. MERRITT,

Office of the Board of Trade,
Toronto, 21 June 1858.

SIR,—In reply to the following series of questions put to me by the Clerk of the Committee on Home and Foreign Trade, I beg to submit the answers annexed:—

Question. As to what was the lowest price of wheat per ton and barrel of flour between Toronto and Quebec, by railway and canal for 1857?

Answer. Freights between Toronto and Quebec vary according to the kind of goods carried and the season, as for example, pig iron is frequently taken from Quebec in the dull season at a mere nominal rate, while other merchandise pays from 20s. @ 40s. \pounds ton; the average of goods would probable be about 25s. @ 27s. 6d.

1. Flour 1s. 6d. @ 1s. 9d. \pounds bbl., and wheat 7½d. \pounds bus. by river.
2. From Lake Erie to Quebec, flour 2s., wheat 9d.
3. From Toronto to New York, flour 2s. 5d., wheat 9d.

Having no certain knowledge of the railway freights, I cannot quote them, nor do I know the rate of ocean freights from Quebec, Boston, or Portland. Relative to the proportionate value of the trade of the Canadian and New York canals, there being no returns from the former, I am unable to give them, but the Erie canal brought to Buffalo merchandise to the value of \$46,627,526, and took produce away, in value \$16,956,740, amounting to 120,645 tons going east, and bringing up 76,316 tons of merchandise.

I may remark, that freights this year are about twenty per cent. lower than last year, both in the States and Canada.

I have, &c.
CHAS. ROBINSON, Secretary.

SIR,

Toronto, 29 June 1858.

IN reply to your inquiries for sundry statistics connected with the Canadian home and foreign trade, I herewith enclose the necessary replies in a tabular form, with a few remarks in reference to this important subject.

I would have answered the communication sooner, but having been engaged in preparing a report on other matters required by the Committee on Public Accounts, I was unable to give immediate attention to your communication of the 17th inst.

According to the Canal Commissioners Report for the State of New York for 1857, more than 4,000,000 tons of merchandise passed upwards and downwards in 1856, whereas the amount of tonnage, including 715,000 tonnage passenger steamers that passed through the St. Lawrence Canals in the same year was not 1,500,000, or about two-thirds less than the Erie Canal. The trade and navigation returns for this year indicate a decrease of about 65,000 tons.

For further information and the latest statistics I would refer the Hon. Chairman to my letter of 1857, addressed to John B. Robinson, Esq., M.P.P., and the reports on the Toronto and Georgian Bay Ship Canal, recently published.

I have, &c.
KIVAS TULLY, Civil Engineer.

W. E. Griffith, Esq.,
Clerk to the Committee on Home and Foreign
Trade, Toronto.

CANADA.

STATEMENT of the relative Capacity, Cost of Transportation, &c. by Quebec and New York to LIVERPOOL.

ST. LAWRENCE CANALS.			
Length.	Width at Water Line.	Depth.	Remarks.
68½ miles.	120 feet ; Cornwall, 150 feet.	10 feet.	See Board of Works Report, 1857.

Dimensions of the Locks.			
Length between Gates.	Width.	Depth on Mitre.	Size of Vessels that can pass the Locks.
200 feet.	45 feet ; Cornwall, 55 feet.	9 feet.	185 + 44 + 9, or 800 tons burthen.

Capacity has never been estimated.

ERIE CANAL enlarged (nearly completed).			
Length.	Width at Water Line.	Depth.	Remarks.
350 miles.	70 feet.	7 feet.	See Engineer's Report, State of New York, 1855.

Dimensions of the Locks.			
Length between Gates.	Width.	Depth on Mitre.	Size of Vessels that can pass the Locks.
110 feet.	19 feet.	5 feet.	100 + 17 + 5, or 200 tons burthen.

Capacity of enlarged Canal, 7,000,000 tons.

The cost of transportation, according to the estimates of the latest Reports, are :—

By Canal	-	-	-	8 mills per ton per mile.
„ River	-	-	-	5 do. do.
„ Lake	-	-	-	3 do. do.
The ocean freight is estimated at	-	-	1½	do. do.

The estimated cost of one ton of merchandise from Chicago to Liverpool, via the Lakes and River St. Lawrence, according to the present capacity of the Canal, is

Do.	by the Erie Canal and New York	-	-	8½ dollars.
Do.	by Oswego	-	-	11 „
		-	-	10 „

KIVAS TULLY,
Civil Engineer.

Toronto, 29 June 1858.

DEAR SIR,

Toronto, 15 July 1858.

I AM engaged in the purchase and shipment of wheat and flour in Canada.

The rate of freight on a bushel of wheat hence to New York, via Oswego, is as follows :—

Toronto to Oswego, say 140 miles	-	-	-	\$0.2½
Oswego to Albany by Canal, 209 miles, and from Albany to New York by Hudson River, 150 miles (no reshipment at Albany)	-	-	-	0.7½
				—\$0.10

On a barrel of flour as above, viz. :

Toronto to Oswego	-	-	-	0.10
Oswego to New York Canal and Hudson River	-	-	-	0.28
				— 0.38

Freight hence to Montreal :

On a bushel of wheat, is	-	-	-	0.06
On a barrel of flour	-	-	-	0.18

Toll charged on a barrel of flour :—

Oswego to Albany is at the rate of 2 mills per 1000 lbs. per mile, or 9 cts. per barrel.
On wheat same rate, or 2½ cts. per bushel.

The above rates of freight are current now, and are lower than have ever obtained before. Occasionally a small abatement from these even is made.

Hon. W. H. Merritt, M.P.P.,
Toronto.I have, &c.
P. BUNDY.

The opinion of W. Kenningham, Esq., a merchant of Chicago and a passenger on the "Dean Richmond," as to the relative prices of freight between Chicago and Montreal, and between Chicago and New York, thence by ocean to Liverpool, was published in the "London Times" on the 3 November 1856, and which give the following result, viz:—

CANADA.

	Per bushel.	Per quarter.	No. of days.
The prices of freight from Chicago to New York are found to be - - -	£0 1 5½	£0 11 8	37
From Chicago to Montreal - - -	0 0 11½	0 7 6	26
Showing a gain from the interior of - - -	£0 0 6½	£0 4 2	11
And a saving of time through Canada of 11 days.			

While there was a loss in prices of ocean freight of 4½d. per bushel and 3s. per quarter, although a gain in time of seven days.

Council Room, Quebec Board of Trade,
30 June 1858.

SIR,

I HAVE to acknowledge your letter, dated the 17th instant, making certain inquiries, by desire of the Chairman of the Committee on Home and Foreign Trade, relative to the rates of freight inland and seaward, to and from several Canadian and United States ports, and other matters, in the year 1857; also respecting the operation on the coast and shipping interest under the treaty of 1854.

The extensive information called for, I regret to say, is not attainable here; I can, therefore, only offer in reply the annexed brief statement of the rates of freight, or rather of the average rates for this port.

With respect to the treaty of 1854, it may be said that Quebec being more distant than other ports from inland navigation intercourse, does not afford a good criterion for judging of its "practical operation on the coast and shipping interest," and the published returns of "Trade and Navigation" for the year 1857, presented to both Houses of Parliament, have in several instances been found so incorrect, especially the "Tonnage by Inland Navigation between Canada and the United States" (No. 28), as respects this port, that no reliance can be placed upon them. It may, however, be remarked that had the reciprocity under the treaty included "new ships," the port of Quebec, where that branch of Canadian industry is carried on to a great extent, would, it is believed, have largely benefitted by it.

To W. E. Griffith, Esq.,
Clerk Committee on Home and Foreign Trade,
Legislative Assembly.

I have &c.,
JOHN BRUCE,
Secretary.

PORT OF QUEBEC—FREIGHTS IN 1857.

Up Freight by Steamers.

From Quebec to Toronto and ports on Lake Ontario -	20s or \$4.00 per gross ton.
From Quebec to ports on Lake Erie - - -	25s. ,, 5.00 ,,

Down Freight by Steamers.

From ports on Lake Ontario to Quebec - - -	per barrel 1s. 6d. or \$0.30
From ports on Lake Erie - - -	2s. 0d. ,, 0.40

Up Freight by Schooners.

From Quebec to ports on Lake Ontario - - -	\$3.00 per gross ton.
From Quebec to ports on Lake Erie - - -	3.50

Down Freight by Schooners.

From ports on Lake Ontario to Quebec - - -	per barrel 1s. to 1s. 3d. } According to late-
From ports on Lake Erie - - -	1s. to 1s. 6d. } ness of season.

From Quebec to Liverpool, Timber - - -	27s. to 34s.
Do do. Deals - - -	£4 to £4 5s.

The export of grain and flour from Quebec is so limited in extent, indeed of the latter it is mostly for filling up or poop freight, that the rates occasionally paid cannot be given as a rule.

From Liverpool to Quebec - - -	8s. 6d. to 17s. 6d. per ton.
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(APPENDIX A, No. 5.)

Comparative length of the Canal.

Erie Canal, connecting Lake Erie via Buffalo with the River Hudson,	352 miles.
Welland Canal, connecting Lake Erie with Ontario	- - 28
St. Lawrence, connecting Lake Ontario with the ocean	- - 44
	— 72
Difference between Lakes Erie and the Atlantic in favour of the	—
St. Lawrence	280 miles.
The Oswego canal connecting Lake Ontario with the Erie Canal	
at Syracuse	- - - - - 36
Thence to Albany	- - - - - 134
	— 170
The St. Lawrence Canal to tide water	- - - - - 44
Difference between Lake Ontario and the Atlantic, via St.	—
Lawrence	126 miles.

Dimensions.

Erie Canal Locks, after enlargement	- - - 110 × 17 × 7 feet water.
Welland Canal	- - - 150 × 26.6 × 10.6 "
St. Lawrence	- - - 200 × 45.0 × 9.0 "

Capacity.

The capacity of the Erie Canal, before its enlargement with locks of 90 × 15 × 4 feet, was 4,116,082 tons. When enlarged, it is estimated by J. L. McAlpine, Esquire, at 7 millions of tons.

The capacity of the Welland Canal may be estimated from the same dimensions at least 12 million tons; the St. Lawrence Canal at double; and when the channel of the St. Lawrence is deepened to 12 feet water, the capacity of the water communications through Canada from Lake Ontario to the ocean will be unlimited.

Railroads.

The following is the cost of transporting coal on roads of various grades, exclusive of drawbacks, or of interest on capital, and the capacity of the road: (Report of the Pennsylvania and Reading Railroad Company, 1856, page 68.)

Level roads, average net load 437.2 tons:—

Capacity, 4,000,000 tons.	No. of trains, 9,149.	Cost per ton per mile, $\frac{6.5}{100}$ cents.
2nd do. 2,000,000 "	" 4,574	" " $\frac{6.9}{100}$ "
$\frac{1}{4}$ do. 1,000,000 "	" 2,287	" " $\frac{7.5}{100}$ "
Grades of 22 feet per mile, net load 233.5 tons:—		
Capacity, 2,113,449 tons.	No. of trains, 9,149.	Cost per ton per mile, $\frac{9.9}{100}$ cents.
$\frac{1}{2}$ do. 1,056,724 "	" 4,574	" " $\frac{9.9}{100}$ "
$\frac{1}{4}$ do. 528,362 "	" 2,287	" " $1\frac{9.9}{100}$ "
Grades of 25 feet per mile, net load 205.7 tons:—		
Capacity, 1,881,951 tons.	No. of trains, 9,149.	Cost per ton per mile, $\frac{7.5}{100}$ cents.
$\frac{1}{2}$ do. 940,975 "	" 4,574	" " $\frac{7.5}{100}$ "
$\frac{1}{4}$ do. 470,488 "	" 2,287	" " $1\frac{7.5}{100}$ "
Grades of 50 feet per mile, net loads 128.8 tons:—		
Capacity, 1,178,392 tons.	No. of trains, 9,149.	Cost per ton per mile, $1\frac{3.1}{100}$ cents.
$\frac{1}{2}$ do. 539,196 "	" 4,574	" " $1\frac{3.1}{100}$ "
$\frac{1}{4}$ do. 294,598 "	" 2,287	" " $1\frac{6.4}{100}$ "
Grades of 55 feet per mile, net loads 109.1 tons:—		
Capacity, 1,089,646 tons.	No. of trains, 9,149.	Cost per ton per mile, $1\frac{3.8}{100}$ cents.
$\frac{1}{2}$ do. 544,823 "	" 4,574	" " $1\frac{3.8}{100}$ "
$\frac{1}{4}$ do. 272,411 "	" 2,287	" " $1\frac{7.3}{100}$ "

The grades descend in the direction of the trade, except $1\frac{7}{10}$ miles in passing the summit between the Schuylkill and Delaware, on which distance there is an extreme grade of $38\frac{1}{10}$ feet per mile against the trade.

The cost of transportation on the Erie Canal is five mills per ton per mile; upon the Central Railroad, nineteen mills per ton per mile; and on the New York and Erie, thirteen mills; the charges for the transportation, including tolls on the Canals in 1853, averaged one cent and one mill per ton per mile. The charges on the Central Railroad averaged four cents and four mills per ton per mile; and on the N. Y. and Erie, two cents and four mills. (Report of Mr. McAlpine, State Engineer and Surveyor of New York, 9th February 1854, page 28).

COMPARATIVE Prices of Traffic between Lake Erie and New York, viâ the New York Central and Welland Railway.

CANADA.

300 miles at 1½ cents cost. 1 cent profit.									
By Railway at 2½ cents per ton per mile	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$7.50
150 miles at 5 cents cost. 2 cents profit.									
By the North River 7 cents per ton per mile	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.05
Two transshipments at Buffalo and Albany at 10 cents	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.20
450 miles at per ton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$8.75
25 miles Welland Railway.									
36 " Oswego "									
81 " Albany "									
Railway, 142 miles, at 1½ cents cost and 1 cent profit									
North River, 150 miles, at 7 cents per ton per mile	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.05
118 miles Lake Ontario, at 2½ mills cost and 1 mill profit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.41
Four transshipments, Lake Erie, Oswego, and Albany, at 10 cents	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.40
150 miles North River, at 7 mills per ton per mile	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.05
									6.46
Difference in favour of Welland Railway	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$2.29

AVERAGE Speed of Freight Trains on the following Railroads, taken from the Annual Report of the Railroad Commission of the State of New York.

Page 1, New York Central Railroad	-	-	-	-	12 miles per hour.
" 230, New York and Erie "	-	-	-	-	7 "
" 709, Ogdensburgh Northern "	-	-	-	-	8 "
" 107, Waterdown and Rome "	-	-	-	-	12 "
" 161, Oswego and Syracuse "	-	-	-	-	12 "

An account of the cost of loading and unloading have been kept at the Dunkirk Station, on the New York and Erie Railroads, from which it appears the expense is found to be nearly seven cents per ton. (Report Erie Canal Commissioner, State of New York, for 1855, page 91.)

(APPENDIX A, No. 6.)

TABLE showing the comparative Distance, Cost, and Time occupied in transporting a Ton of Goods between Liverpool and Chicago by way of the St. Lawrence, and by the River Hudson.

From	To	Distance.	Mode of Transit.	Cost per Ton per Mile.	Toll.	Total Charges per Ton.	Relative Speed per Mile per Hour.	Time.		
								Days	Hours.	
Liverpool -	Quebec -	2,500	Ocean	c. m.	m.	\$ c.	12	8	16	By Ocean and Railway.
Quebec -	Chicago -	1,000	Railway	0 1	—	2 50	20	2	2	
Viâ Quebec -		3,500	- -	—	—	32 50	—	10	18	
Liverpool -	New York -	3,000	Ocean	0 1	—	3 00	12	10	10	By Ocean and Railway.
New York -	Chicago -	1,000	Railway	3 0	—	30 00	20	2	2	
Viâ New York -		4,000	- -	—	—	33 00	—	12	12	

TABLE showing the comparative Distance, Cost, &c.—*continued*.

From	To	Distance.	Mode of Transit	Cost per Ton per Mile.	Toll.	Total Charges per Ton.	Relative Speed per Mile, per Hour.	Time.	
								Days.	Hours.
Liverpool -	Quebec -	2,500	Ocean -	c. m. 0 1	m. —	\$ c. 2 50	12	8	16
Quebec -	Prescott -	270	Railway	3 0	—	8 16	20	—	13½
Prescott -	Welland R.R.	250	Lake -	0 2½	—	0 62	10	—	21
Port Dalhousie -	Port Colborne								
Welland Railway Terminus -	Terminus	25	Railway	3 0	—	0 75	20	—	1¼
Chicago -		1,000	Lake -	0 2½	—	2 50	10	4	4
Viâ Quebec -	-	4,045	- -	—	—	14 47	—	14	7
By Ocean, Lake, and R.R.									
Liverpool -	New York -	3,000	Ocean -	0 1	—	3 00	12	10	10
New York -	Albany -	150	River -	0 8	—	1 20	5	1	6
Albany -	Lake Erie -	300	Railway	3 0	—	9 00	20	—	15
Chicago -		1,000	Lake -	0 2½	—	2 50	10	4	4
Viâ New York -	-	4,450	- -	—	—	15 70	—	16	11
By Ocean, Lake, and R.R.									
Liverpool -	Quebec -	2,500	Ocean -	0 1	—	2 50	12	8	16
Quebec -	Montreal -	180	River -	0 5	—	0 90	5	1	12
Montreal -	Prescott -	44	Canal -	0 8	1	0 39	5	—	9
Prescott -	Welland R.R.	250	Lake -	0 2½	—	0 62	10	1	7
Welland R.R.	Lake Erie -	25	Railway	3 0	—	0 75	20	—	1¼
Lake Erie -	Chicago -	1,000	Lake -	0 2½	—	2 50	10	4	4
Viâ Quebec -	-	3,999	- -	—	—	7 66	—	16	1
By Ocean, Canal, and Lake.									
Liverpool -	New York -	3,000	Ocean -	0 1	—	3 00	12	10	10
New York -	Albany -	150	River -	0 7	—	1 05	5	1	6
Albany -	Buffalo -	352	Canal -	0 8	1	3 16	3	4	18
Buffalo -	Chicago -	1,000	Lake -	0 2½	—	2 50	10	4	4
Viâ New York -	-	4,502	- -	—	—	9 71	—	20	14
By Ocean, Canal, and Lake.									

(APPENDIX A, No. 7.)

EVIDENCE of C. D. PIERCE, formerly Captain of the "Dean Richmond."

1. ARE you acquainted with the navigation of the lakes, rivers, canals, and the Atlantic between Chicago and Liverpool?—I am. I have been sailing on the lakes and on the Atlantic for the last twelve years. I commanded a vessel during ten years in the lake trade between Chicago and Quebec, and two years on the Atlantic, between Chicago and Liverpool, making the first voyage in 1856.

2. Can you give any particulars of the voyage?—Yes; we kept a regular log, which was published in the "London Times." We left Chicago on the 17th July, arriving in Liverpool on the 17th September following.

				Miles.
We were	2 days in	Milwaukie, shipping cargo.		
"	10 days and	2 hours to Port Colborne, Welland Canal	-	1,000
"	3 "	15 " passing the Welland Canal	-	28
"	6 "	0 " to Prescott	-	250
"	6 "	3 " through the St. Lawrence Canal to Montreal	-	110
"	1 "	5 " to Quebec (towing)	-	180
Making	29 "	1 " in a distance of	-	1,568
	6 "	4 " at Quebec for repairs.	-	
	27 "	0 " to Liverpool	-	2,500
				4,068

3. What was the cause of detention of six days between Prescott and Montreal?—It arose from the depth of water in the St. Lawrence canals. Her draught was nine feet six inches from Chicago through the Welland canal to Dickinson's landing, where we had to lighten to less than nine feet, which detained us two days. We were also detained two days in the Beauharnois canal, where the level was

still less than in the Cornwall, and one day in the Lachine canal, arising from the level being drawn down by mills.

4. What is the expense of lightening through the canals?—It averages about \$250 for each vessel on her downward trip when they draw ten feet. The Welland canal admits vessels of ten feet six inches.

5. What number of vessels are making the direct voyage in the lake trade this year?—Fourteen, they average 380 tons, nine of which are under my direction.

6. What channel did you take at the outlet of the Gulf of St. Lawrence?—I went out by the Straits of Belle Isle with the "Dean Richmond," and sold her in England in 1856. Passed out by the channel of St. Pauls with the "Kershaw" in 1857, and through the Gut of Canso on her return.

7. What time did you leave Liverpool in the "Kershaw"?—I left on the 30th September, met a gale of wind, and ran into Falmouth; left that port 16th October, and arrived at Quebec 1st December, making the last trip for the season.

8. Did you meet with any difficulty in the navigation of the gulf?—Not the slightest. The charts of Captain Bayfield are so perfect that any competent mariner may take a vessel out or in without the aid of a pilot.

9. How do you account for the high rates of insurance from the Atlantic to and from Quebec?—It arises from the number of vessels formerly running ashore without sounding, which has led to erroneous impressions. There is no reason why the insurance should be higher than to the ports of New York, Boston, or Portland.

10. What would be a remunerative price per bushel of wheat or corn of sixty pounds, between Chicago and Liverpool, and per ton of merchandise returning?—Grain sixty pounds per bushel net \$10; and ton of merchandise returning about \$8, freights being extremely low.

11. What description of steamer should be employed to make up a daily line between Liverpool and Quebec, and what time would they occupy?—Not less than 2,000 tons, which at 10 miles per hour, would occupy about 10 days and 10 hours.

12. What tonnage of steamer will pass the St. Lawrence canals?—A steamer will convey a cargo of 1,000 tons up to Port Dalhousie, provided the St. Lawrence canals alluded to were deepened to 10 feet 6 inches water.

13. What size propeller will pass up the Welland canal?—One of about 360 tons, and which would convey 12,000 bushels of wheat.

14. What size propeller would be most profitably employed between the Welland canal and Chicago?—About the same as on the St. Lawrence, 1,000 tons.

15. Supposing a daily line of steamers of 2,000 tons placed on the route between Quebec and Liverpool, in connection with a continuous line to Chicago, would they obtain full freights?—Yes; for a period of 200 days, the supply furnished by the Western States would be ample; the transhipment by elevators serves to benefit grain; the voyage would be reduced to at most 20 days. The purchasers of grain could draw from Chicago on Liverpool direct at 30 days, paying first cost only, say 50 cents per bushel, leaving the freight, about 30 cents, to be paid in Liverpool on delivery, requiring less capital in the trade, at the same time this daily line would not interfere with the ordinary business of the port inasmuch as seven steamers of 1,000 tons burthen can navigate the ocean with perfect safety and with equal economy; so that it would only require the deepening of the canals to open a direct trade via the Welland canal and railway to all parts of Europe, and at the same time admit of a different class of sailing vessels to ply on the said route.

16. Have you any doubt on your mind, that if the same sums of money were annually paid by the Imperial and Canadian Governments for conveying the mails (or for any other object) to Quebec as to New York, individuals would offer a sufficient number of steamers to make up a daily line immediately?—Not the least; if the boats are of sufficient dimensions and power, because they have less ocean distance, can carry passengers, light freight, and emigrants, at less cost and in a shorter time to Quebec than to New York.

17. Have you any suggestion to make which would increase the trade through the Welland and St. Lawrence canals?—Yes; the reduction of tolls on timber, lumber, staves, and other articles. The principal articles of export from the Upper lakes to England at present are the best kind of walnut, cherry, and other boards, staves, and timber. These do not pass the St. Lawrence canals, but are generally rafted down the river; for if conveyed in a vessel, are subject to tolls, both on the Welland and St. Lawrence canals. Thus the tolls on one ton of wheat, valued at 80 cents per bushel, or \$29.60 per ton, pays 30 cents toll, whereas I have estimated that a thousand staves at \$20 pay \$1.50 per 1,000 for toll.

18. Do you think the removal of the bars in the rapids between lakes St. Francis and St. Lewis would repay the cost?—Yes; by Maillefert and Raesloff's report, less than one million of dollars each will give twelve feet of water from Lake Ontario to tide water, the most important improvement yet undertaken.

19. When the St. Lawrence canals become deepened, and when the Welland canal is enlarged, will it, in your judgment, be the means of lessening the traffic over the Welland railway?—No; because the Welland railway is only twenty-five miles long, with a descending grade in the direction of the trade, and from the facility and cheapness with which all descriptions of freight adapted for railways can be conveyed between lakes Erie and Ontario for the traffic east and west, it must always command full freight, it being the shortest land transit between Liverpool and Chicago.

20. Do you think the estimate of transportation mentioned in statement A is correct?—Yes.

21. What are the highest and lowest relative prices of freight paid between Cleveland, New York, and Montreal?—Prices of wheat are variable in the summer season, wheat is conveyed to New York for from 15 to 20 cents, and during the spring and fall from 25 to 35 cents per bushel, and to Quebec for from 10 to 20, and from 15 to 20 cents, making a difference of 50 per cent. to the two ports.

EVIDENCE of THOMAS WORTHINGTON, Esq., Inspector of Ports for Upper Canada.

22. Explain to the Committee the mode of intercourse prior to 1856, between Canada and the United States, relative to the exportation of wheat and flour?—By An act passed by the Legislative Assembly in 1847, 10 to 11 Vict., cap. 31, sects. 27 and 72, pp. 31 and 41, it shall be lawful for the importer of any wheat, maize, or other grain to grind and pack the same in bond; providing such grinding and packing be done and conducted under such regulations and restrictions as the Governor in Council shall, from time to time, make for this purpose; and the said regulations may extend to the substitution of beef and pork, flour and meal, in quantities equivalent to the produce of such cattle and swine, maize or other grain, 72, 41,* page 63, sects. 8 and 9 of regulations, 30th March, 1850. In the packing of flour ground from wheat imported from the United States, the Governor in Council permitted barrels to be imported free also from the United States, as in the case at Port Erie.

* Sic.

23. What is the practice now relative to similar importations and exportations?—The Customs practice in Canada is so far changed as to dispense with bonds, &c., as before provided. The Reciprocity Treaty being viewed generally by the Customs officers in charge of ports as confirmatory of more than all the privileges indicated by the Legislative enactments of 10 & 11 Vict., &c., and as permanently settling the question of a free and unrestricted international interchange in beef, pork, flour, meal, lumber, &c. It being generally understood and allowed that any or all of these articles could be exported or imported for conversion into flour, meal, pork, &c., and either taken back as the actual product, or the same substituted in weight or quantity within a given time; not only is our Customs practice here unchanged in this respect, but our Customs have in some cases extended it to wool, viz:—in carding and looming, and also to hay; the United States Treasury have of late narrowed their own interpretation, as once entertained of the Reciprocity Treaty; see document as per margin; see 929, page 504, clapboard; see 930, page 504, conversion of ;† see 934, page 505, shingle, both split; see 396, page 505, “growth or produce.”

† Sic.

24. How do you construe the 3d article of the Treaty of 1854, between the United States and Canada?—This article of the Reciprocity Treaty has always appeared to me to have been previously intended to cover fairly all the products of the field and forest, such as wheat, corn, barley, rye, and oats, ground and unground, including horse feed, shorts, bran, and hay; saw logs, squared timber, lumber, clapboards, railway ties, and shingle bolts. In this construction I know I am borne out by the majority of the Customs officers in our service.

25. Have not consuls or agents been appointed lately?—Yes; but I have not been able to obtain full information as to all the appointments made; the following ports of entry, in Canada, I know are supplied, viz., Toronto, Whitby, Oshawa, Darlington and Newcastle, Collingwood, Oakville, Hamilton, Clifton, Chippewa, Dover, Rowan, Bruce, Port Stanley, Chatham, Windsor, Sarnia, and Goderich, and judging from the foregoing ports, I should infer that altogether there must be over fifty consular agents in Canada West.

26. When were these appointments made?—Since February last the circular for the Consular General of the United States for British North American Provinces was issued on the 28th July of the present year, and dated from Montreal, directing consular agents to prevent detention at the frontier ports, and to notify shippers of certain regulations of the Treasury Department of the United States. This information had been already communicated to the public by posters, &c., under the signature of Mr. Brydges, about two years since, and every precaution was taken that could possibly be devised by the Canadian Customs, as well as by the United States Customs, to insure correct returns of exports from Canada.

27. Under what circumstances did this change come into operation. The 1st and 2d sections of the Consular General's circular refers to the Treasury regulations of 1857, Nos. 203, 204, 206, 207, 209, 281, 287, 706, 707, and 710, but these have reference almost exclusively to articles paying duty, and not to goods free by treaty (see 287, 706, and 707), while the 3d section refers to articles of the produce of the United States exported to the British North American Provinces, and returned to the United States in the same condition as when exported, claiming to be entered free of duty, &c., and reference is here made to Nos. 242, 246, 286, 293, and 936, in support of this view: none of which however bear upon the question, excepting 930 and 936, these having special reference to the Reciprocity Treaty; it is worthy of note that in 936 we have the words “growth or produce” twice quoted, and not growth and produce. Regarding the 4th section of this circular, “merchandise the value of \$100 and upwards, claiming exemption from duty under the Reciprocity Treaty, pays a fee of \$2.” This impost is not justified by any law of the United States, and it is in direct violation of the Reciprocity Treaty. Goods free under this treaty cannot be made subject to any oath before a magistrate, nor is it competent for any consular agent to exact a fee legally (see regulation, 922). This regulation has only reference to foreign owners of goods, the produce of Canada, and not to the United States purchaser; upon reading the heading of No. 278, “Foreign owner's oath, where goods have been “actually purchased, to be taken before a consular officer of the United States in the British “Provinces,” it is observable that the “Consular General” constructs his “regulation” on this heading, rather than upon the form itself, (see pp. 498, 499,) and which most distinctly alludes to the owner, discounts, bounties, and drawbacks, none of which can apply to goods free under the Reciprocity Treaty. Public feeling generally is against the assumption set up by the United States Consular General for British North America, both in the United States and Canada, and some able communications condemnatory thereof have appeared upon this question, through the public press (p. 1, 2, 3).

28. What fees are charged by the consular agents, and who participates in them?—The fee of \$2 is charged, one half of which, I understand, goes into the pocket of the agent, and the remainder is transmitted to the Consular General.

CANADA.
—

(APPENDIX A, No. 9.)

To the Hon. W. H. MERRITT, Chairman of the Committee on Commerce.

DEAR SIR,

Toronto Exchange, 9 July 1858.

WE have had occasion to ship a considerable quantity of split peas to New York, and until recently they were admitted "as free" under the Treaty of Reciprocity. During the last season, however, in consequence of instructions from Washington, the collectors on the frontier have demanded the payment of duty, on the ground that split peas are not specially enumerated in the list of exemptions. We are aware that split peas are not specially referred to in the treaty, but we believe that peas and pease-meal are exempt, and we cannot see why the intermediate manufacture, by splitting, should offend the spirit of the Act, and induce the imposition of a duty, where we think none was ever contemplated by those who framed the Act. Should your Committee concur with us in this opinion, we would respectfully beg your attention to the matter, as the present illiberal construction of the Act, by the American authorities, in this and other instances which are now engaging your attention, are militating most injuriously against the commerce of the country.

We are, &c.

JAMES BROWNE, Jr., & Co.

(APPENDIX A, No. 10.)

To the Honourable the LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY of CANADA in Parliament assembled.

The Petition of the Board of Trade of Toronto, respectfully sheweth:—

That whereas Nature has endowed this province with a magnificent highway to the ocean, through the Lakes and the River St. Lawrence, capable of bearing for coming ages the teeming produce of its rich soil to supply the wants of the manufacturing and consuming population of the countries of Europe:

And whereas the port of Quebec is 500 miles nearer to Liverpool than the port of New York, and produce is now being brought from Chicago and the north-western lakes by means of the facilities to navigation already existing in Canada at a cheaper and more expeditious rate than it can reach New York from the same points, and only requires a corresponding rate of ocean freights from Quebec to compete successfully with the export trade from New York to England:

And whereas the commercial, manufacturing, and shipping interests of the province are depressed and in a languishing condition, our public works on the St. Lawrence being all but idle, and the public debt of the country rapidly increasing without any prospect of the expenditure being diminished, under which circumstances it becomes imperative on the Legislature to provide some remedy for our present anomalous condition: ♦

Therefore your petitioners respectfully pray your Honourable House would appoint a Committee to investigate the cause, and if possible provide some measure by which the present distress in commerce may be alleviated and the natural advantages of the Province be realized.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c. &c.

Charles Robertson, Secretary.
Toronto, 8 June 1858.

THOS. CLARKSON,
President.

NOVA
SCOTIA.

NOVA SCOTIA.

No. 2.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Earl of MULGRAVE to the Right Hon.
Sir E. B. LYTTON, Bart.

No. 43.

Government House, Halifax, N.S.,
May 2, 1859.

(Received May 16, 1859.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book for the year 1857, prepared, as nearly as circumstances rendered possible, in the amended form recommended in the Circular from your department under date 24th April 1857.

The Book is necessarily somewhat imperfect, owing to the fact that the returns which it contains have been supplied for local purposes, and the financial statements are principally made in currency, and also that, as in 1857 a change was made in the commencement of the financial year, some of the returns exhibit only a period of nine months.

Immediately on my arrival I directed that the Book for 1857 should be compiled, at the same time giving instructions that, without more than necessary delay, that for 1858 should also be completed, and it will be transmitted so soon as the Journals of the Legislature shall have been prepared.

The staff, however, which is employed in the different offices in this Province is so inadequate for the work which has to be performed that I fear it is hopeless to expect that punctuality and accuracy in the completion of the Blue Book which I should wish to see.

I have also issued an order that for the future the sheets of the Journal and Proceedings of the House of Assembly, which are used in the compilation of this volume, shall be printed in folio, in order more fully to comply with the requirements of the circular before mentioned.

As during the year 1857 the government of Nova Scotia was administered by my predecessor, I shall not enter into a detailed report of the state of the Colony at that period; the Comparative Statement (marked A.), which has been prepared by my directions, and which I append, will, however, show in some measure the financial position of the Province during the different periods to which it refers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MULGRAVE.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.
&c. &c. &c.

("A.")

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT.

Imports and Exports.

Tables exhibiting the Quantities and Value of the principal Articles of Import and Export will be found on pages 1 to 114, Part 2. of the accompanying Book. The period extending over nine months.

STATEMENT of the STERLING VALUE of the IMPORTS and EXPORTS respectively, from the Year
1853 to 1857 inclusive.

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1853 - -	1,417,086	1,078,707
1854 - -	1,791,082	1,274,668
1855 - -	1,882,703	1,472,215
1856 - -	1,869,872	1,372,928
1857 (Nine months)	1,936,176	1,393,566

The increase in value of the imports of 1857 as compared with 1856 is thus shown to be 66,304*l.*, and the increase in the value of exports for the same period 20,638*l.*

Revenue and Expenditure.

An Abstract of the Accounts of Revenue and Expenditure is inserted at pages 3, 4, 5, Part V.

NOVA
SCOTIA.

Revenue in 1856	-	-	£138,303	0	3
Revenue in 1857	-	-	146,129	7	4
Increase	-	-	£ 7,826	7	1

It is to be observed that this statement is irrespective of the Receipts arising from the disposal of Railroad Debentures, amounting to 153,000*l.* sterling, and that of the Revenue in 1856 12,000*l.* arises from the issue of Provincial paper money, and 11,200*l.* from Savings Bank Deposits.

Expenditure in 1856	-	-	£ 133,953	12	0
Expenditure in 1857	-	-	158,761	19	3
Increase	-	-	£ 24,808	7	3

exclusive of Expenditure in the construction of Provincial Railways, amounting, as shown by the Receiver General's account, to 191,779*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.* in 1857.

Balances in Treasury.

31 Dec. 1855	-	-	-	£ 18,984	3	1	Sterling.
„ 1856	-	-	-	17,907	11	4	„
„ 1857	-	-	-	5,274	19	3	„

STATEMENT exhibiting the AMOUNT and PARTICULARS of the PUBLIC DEBT, 1853 to 1857, inclusive.

Date.	Amount in Sterling	PARTICULARS.			
		Notes in Circulation.	Deposits in Savings Bank, Interest 4 per Cent.	Railroad Construction Debentures, Interest 6 per Cent.	Monies undrawn.
Dec. 31	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1853	105,257 11 4	47,889 12 0	4,000 0 0	—	17,367 19 4
1854	135,969 14 8	56,691 12 0	56,400 0 0	—	22,673 2 8
1855	345,629 13 3	83,745 12 0	73,600 0 0	160,800 0 0	27,484 1 3
1856	432,523 13 6	95,745 12 0	84,800 0 0	233,900 0 0	18,078 1 6
1857	586,324 12 0	95,745 12 0	89,840 0 0	384,900 0 0	15,839 0 0

Note.—In the foregoing Statement temporary loans have not been included.

Shipping.

Nine Months	{	Number of Vessels built in 1857	-	-	148
	{	Number of Tons Burden	-	-	23,548
	{	Sterling Value, estimated	-	-	£ 175,620
Number of Vessels owned in the Colony		-	-	-	1,994
Tons Burden		-	-	-	183,697
Estimated Value		-	-	-	£1,041,772

NEW
BRUNSWICK

NEW BRUNSWICK.

No. 3.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor the Hon. J. H. T. MANNERS SUTTON to the
Right Hon. Sir E. B. LYTTON, Bart.

(No. 27.)

Government House, Fredricton, New Brunswick.
May 13, 1859.

Sir,

(Received May 30, 1859.)

I ~~MUST~~ apologize for the delay which has occurred in the transmission of the Blue Book of this Province for the year 1857. But even now I have not received the second copy of this Book, and I am therefore unable to send it in duplicate, according to the established rule. I shall repair this omission as speedily as possible.

In the last paragraph of my Despatch to Mr. Labouchere (December 23d, 1857, No. 31.) which accompanied the Blue Book for the year 1856, I ventured to express a hope that I might be enabled thenceforward to transmit to the Secretary of State the Blue Book at an earlier period of the year, and thus escape the difficulties attendant on an explanation of events long passed, and prevent the misconception to which such an explanation must necessarily be liable, if it should be regarded as an exposition of the condition of the Province as existing at the date of the Despatch. And although this anticipation has not been realized, I hope that I shall, in the course of a few weeks, be in possession of the financial and other returns and official documents for the year 1858, which will enable me to lay before you without further delay all the explanations and remarks which would form the contents of the Blue Book Despatch for the year 1858. And I shall then avail myself of the opportunity of supplying the deficiencies in this Despatch, as regards the condition of the Province during 1857, the preceding year.

Meanwhile I have the honour to forward to you the Returns, Reports, and other Documents referring to and explanatory of the state of affairs here in 1857, which are set forth in the Schedule annexed to this Despatch.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. H. T. MANNERS SUTTON.

The Right Hon. Sir E. Bulwer Lytton, Bart., M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

Eleven
Enclosures,
forming the
Blue Book.

SCHEDULE OF RETURNS, &c., &c.

1. Report of Auditor General on Public Accounts.
2. Custom House Returns.
3. Crown Land Returns.
4. Report of the Chief Commissioner of Works.
5. Report of the Postmaster General.
6. Report of the Superintendent of Education.
7. Returns of Banks and other incorporated Companies.
8. Report on the Provincial Lunatic Asylum.
9. Report of the Commissioners of Lighthouses.
10. Report of the Marine Hospital and Lazzaretto.
11. Report of the Board of Health at St. John.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

PRINCE
EDWARD
ISLAND.

No. 4.

COPY of DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor Sir D. DALY to the Right Hon.
Sir E. BULWER LYTTON, Bart.

(No. 4.)

Government House, Prince Edward Island,
January 10, 1859,

(Received 8th February 1859)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour of transmitting to you herewith the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1857, in duplicate.

2. The statements contained in this volume afford little ground for special comment. It was not until the latter part of the year (i.e. 1857) to which those returns relate that the effects of the depression in all commercial matters, which has been everywhere so severely felt, were to any serious degree experienced in this Island.

3. From the extent, however, to which the nearly total extinction of credit, consequent on the state of the money market all over the world, has subsequently affected all commercial enterprise, more especially ship-building, I apprehend that a falling off in the revenue for 1858 will require circumspection and economy in the appropriations for the next financial year.

4. A very abundant harvest has already done much towards the restoration of a more prosperous state of things, as the produce of the soil has found ready sale at remunerative prices, and has been exported to an unprecedented extent, exhibiting a very satisfactory development of the effect of the Reciprocity Treaty with the United States.

5. The fisheries on the shores of the Island are undergoing a gradual increase, principally by the employment of enterprise and capital from the United States; but it is universally felt that no benefit is derived from this source at all in proportion to the Colony's capabilities, or such as would accrue if a sum equal to that which is annually abstracted from the means and productive industry of the Colony in the form of rents by absentee proprietors were to be employed in fisheries, or in the improved cultivation of the soil.

6. The breadth of land under cultivation is also on the increase, but it is difficult to determine whether as much can be said of population. A desire to emigrate to New Zealand has been somewhat prevalent in this Island for some time past, and one brig freighted with passengers, among whom were the owners of the vessel, has already sailed for that Colony, and it is said will be followed by a much larger number in a few months. Indeed it is within my own knowledge that many would emigrate if they could realize sufficient means to enable them to do so.

7. Immigrants have arrived here from Scotland within the past year to the extent of about 300, chiefly composed of the friends or relatives of old settlers, and are likely to remain; but from the best information I can procure I apprehend that the immigration from this Island to other Colonies and the United States fully equals, if it does not exceed, any immigration that has taken place.

8. The militia, I regret to say, remains in the same unsatisfactory state that I have hitherto had occasion to report. It exists but in name; and I see no reason at present to expect that a sufficient sum will be appropriated from the local revenue to bring it to such a state of proficiency as the defenceless state of the Colony demands.

9. The free education system, which has been in operation for some years, and which is supported at a cost of nearly one third of the whole of the revenue of the Colony, continues to give such general satisfaction that no disposition has yet been evinced to economise in that direction, notwithstanding the disproportion which so heavy a charge bears to the resources of the Island.

10. Considerable improvement has been effected in the means of postal communication with the neighbouring Colonies, by the employment of a superior steamer, under contract for five or seven years, which gives general and increasing satisfaction by the speed and

PRINCE
EDWARD
ISLAND.

regularity with which the service is performed, and the increased facilities it affords to the travelling public.

11. I am happy to be enabled to assure you that the tranquillity of the Colony, which I have had the satisfaction of witnessing during the whole course of my administration of this Government, continues unbroken, and that I am under no apprehension of its interruption.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart., M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

I am, &c.
(Signed) D. DALY.

NEWFOUND-
LAND.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

No. 5.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor Sir A. BANNERMAN to the Rt. Hon.
Sir E. B. LYTTON, Bart.

(Separate.)

Government House, Newfoundland,
October 1, 1858.

(Received November 19, 1858.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the "Blue Book," for the past year 1857.

2. On transmitting the same document for 1856, I stated that having been but a short time in the Colony, I abstained from offering any observations on the state of Newfoundland until a further opportunity.

3. The revenue for the year ending 1857 amounted to 116,600*l.*, a larger one than had ever been collected in the Colony. I suggested to the Legislature at the opening of the Session of this year, that "care should be taken to inquire into the causes which occasioned financial prosperity; that I understood that large importations of goods were made in the preceding year, that the fisheries were successful, and the labouring population well employed and paid, consequently, large consumers of dutiable articles; but fisheries being precarious, series of successful years were not to be expected, and that the revenue should be appropriated with due economy and a regard to the probable future income of the Colony and its existing debt."

4. Should direct steam communication with England (which is so much desired by the community) be carried into effect, a large sum will be required besides any expected aid from Her Majesty's Government to accomplish the object.

5. Great inconvenience is felt from a deficient supply of water for the town of St. John's, and, frequent fires having taken place, an additional supply of water will become indispensable, but must be attended with considerable expense.

6. Up to the present time, the 1st October, the revenue has considerably fallen off, but not to such an extent as to create uneasiness, provided due economy is observed in the appropriation of the sums levied by taxation.

7. The fisheries have not been so productive as in the year 1857, but I hope the produce will be nearly an average.

8. Soon after my arrival in the Colony representations were made to me on the very inefficient administration of justice; the chief Judge of the Supreme Court, a gentleman highly respected here, having no aid from his two colleagues (owing to their age and infirmity), and being obliged to do most of the duty. I brought this subject under the consideration of the Legislature, who readily granted allowances to the two retiring Judges. The vacancies have been provisionally filled up by gentlemen who, I believe, have the confidence of the community, and I hope their appointments will be confirmed by Her Majesty.

9. The Session of 1857 had terminated two months before my arrival in St. John's; it was a short one, and the Legislature principally occupied in discussing the proposed Fishery Convention with France. It required the sanction of the Colonial Legislature, and as they considered new concessions and privileges were given to the French fishermen, which would greatly affect the interests of the Newfoundland fishermen, strong remon-

strances were made to Her Majesty's Government against any new concessions being made to the French; the proposed Convention was consequently withdrawn, and the Newfoundland fisheries now stand on the same footing which they did before the late Convention was proposed; and subjects of France and citizens of the United States possess, by existing treaties, rights of fishery, which they periodically exercise on the coasts of Newfoundland.

10. The Commandants of His Imperial Majesty's Ships, stationed on these coasts during this season, have intimated that the Government of France is determined that the existing treaties with that nation shall be strictly adhered to; and English fishermen (more particularly in St. George's Bay) have taken great alarm in consequence, having been prosecuting the fishery there for many years, as they allege, without molestation.

11. The question is one which, I think, ought to be finally arranged and set at rest; collisions and disputes frequently occurred, and will again occur, and they may lead to serious consequences; both nations are put to the expense of sending ships of war for the protection of the fisheries, whereas, if the rights of each nation were clearly defined, a cutter or two for police purposes would be sufficient, and only required for six months in the year.

12. If the question of dispute be confined to the construction of *existing* treaties, which I hope it will, I can see no great difficulty in obtaining a satisfactory solution of what is meant by the terms "concurrent right," and "exclusive right," due attention being paid to the interpretation which has been placed on these treaties by the respective parties, and the practice which has prevailed for a series of years, which, in my opinion, cannot be well ascertained without getting evidence on the spot.

13. I believe, indeed I have no doubt, that encroachments have been made on both sides, and I consider it to be of great importance correctly to ascertain the nature of these encroachments, and which cannot be got at without direct evidence, as hitherto it has been assertion on one side, and denial on the other.

14. I have dwelt too long on this subject, but considering it one of vital consequence, I trust it may soon occupy the attention of Her Majesty's Government, and it will afford me sincere satisfaction to see the Newfoundland fishery question, which has caused so many negotiations and so much correspondence, brought to a satisfactory conclusion.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. BANNERMAN,
Governor.

To the Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

BERMUDA.

BERMUDA.

No. 6.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor MURRAY to the UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE.

(No. 60.)

Bermuda, June 19, 1858.

MY LORD,

(Received July 12, 1858.)

IN forwarding the Blue Book for 1857, which only came to my hands from Mr. Kennedy, the Colonial Secretary, so immediately preceding the departure of the last mail that time was not sufficient to examine and send it by that opportunity, I find that no particular remarks are necessary on my part.

2. You will observe some diminution in the exports of agricultural produce, which has been mainly attributable to the potato disease having prevailed to a great extent. I have the satisfaction of finding that the efforts I have made since my arrival in the colony to encourage the development of its agricultural resources have been attended with so much success, that whereas on my first assuming the Government a limited number of

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BERMUDA. the small vessels belonging to the colony were sufficient to carry away all the exported articles, I now have the gratification of witnessing the arrival here of numerous foreign vessels of considerable tonnage, seeking to be freighted with the produce of these islands, and obtaining it at remunerative prices.

The Under Secretary of State,
&c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed)

FREEMAN MURRAY.

PART II.

WEST INDIES AND MAURITIUS.

PART II.—WEST INDIES AND MAURITIUS.

JAMAICA.

JAMAICA.

No. 7.

COPIES of a DESPATCH from Governor DARLING to the Right Honourable
Sir EDWARD BULWER LYTTON Bart, M.P.

(No. 160.)

King's House, 27th December 1858.

(Received Feb. 3, 1859.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book for the year 1857. I assumed the government of the colony towards the close of the month of July in that year, and soon afterwards became occupied in the preparation of measures to be submitted to the legislature at its then approaching session, which commenced early in November and continued until the end of the year.

2. Under these circumstances I have thought that my annual report will be advantageously confined to such a notice of the returns, which the Blue Book contains, as may serve succinctly to exhibit the financial and economic condition of the island at the close of the year 1857, both absolutely and in comparison as respects its more important features with that which the similar returns for the preceding year disclose.

Revenue.

3. Commencing then with the ordinary revenue derived from duties, taxes, stamps, fees, and licences for the year 1857, it will be perceived that it is returned at 200,682*l.* 19*s.* 1*d.* against the sum of 208,450*l.* 5*s.* for the year 1856.

4. It appears not to have been the custom in this colony to prepare the comparative return of Revenue and Expenditure for which the Blue Book forms provide, and the ready means of comparison which that document affords are therefore wanting. I shall endeavour to have this omission remedied in future. But it may be stated generally that the more important sources of revenue, viz. the customs' duties, the tonnage duties, the rum duties, and the stamp duties, yielded a return for 1857 rather in excess of that for the preceding year, while the difference in favour of the latter upon the total revenue seems to have been occasioned by the fact that a large amount of arrears of direct taxes was collected in that year.

5. The total revenue for the years 1857 and 1856 stood thus:—

		1857.		1856.
		£		£
Ordinary receipts	-	200,683	-	208,450
Casual receipts	-	10,044	-	13,318
		<hr/>		<hr/>
Total	-	£ 210,727	-	£221,768
		<hr/>		<hr/>

In both years, however, rests from loans are included which it seems to me have no proper place in a statement of revenue.

Expenditure.

The expenditure for those years amounted respectively to, in what are termed:—

		1857.		1856.
		£		£
Ordinary payments	-	180,778	-	182,521
Casual payments	-	26,521	-	31,091
		<hr/>		<hr/>
Total	-	£ 207,299	-	£213,612
		<hr/>		<hr/>

6. The ordinary payments are, however, made to include the interests of two loans, amounting to no less than 30,000*l.* while the interests of other loans are placed under the head of casual payments.

Local Revenues.

7. The local revenues raised and collected in the twenty-two parishes into which the island is divided amounted to 46,267*l.*, and the expenditure of those parishes to 42,002*l.*

Public Debt.

JAMAICA.

8. The public debt stands, I regret to say, at the very high figure of 852,808*l.* It is composed as stated in the return :

i. Of the capital of the fund derived from deductions from the stipends of the clergy of the Established Church, to provide pensions for their widows and orphans, amounting to	£	
		38,080
ii. Of the capitals of charities, eleemosynary and educational, but principally the latter, which have been long since applied by the legislature of the day to purposes of revenue ; posterity being saddled for ever with the interest thereon, at rates varying from 6 to 10, and in one instance as high as 24 per cent. These capitals amount to		68,202
iii. Of the deposits of the savings' banks, amounting to		44,443
iv. Deposits of insolvent estates of the Court of Chancery, and of apprentice valuations, amounting to		10,554
v. Of loans secured under various Acts, amounting in all to		692,525

8,150*l.* of this sum consists of exchequer bills which have been redeemed in the course of the present year. The imperial guaranteed loan 480,000*l.* is under gradual redemption by the payment of 10,000*l.* a year, as a sinking fund. The immigration loan, amounting to 44,375*l.* is also under gradual redemption by a special tax upon exports ; and there is moreover a sum of 160,000*l.* remaining unliquidated of the loan of 200,000*l.* raised under an Act of the fourth year of His late Majesty, to afford relief for the losses incurred in the Slave Rebellion of 1831.

4 W. 4. c. 2.

Expenditure by Great Britain.

9. The amount expended by Great Britain in and of the civil establishment is stated at,—

For the salary of stipendiary magistrates and superannuation allowance to officers of customs	£	7,467
To which must be added, part salary of the Governor		3,500
Total	£	10,967

The military and naval expenditure on account of the colony is returned at,—

Through the commissariat		132,458
Through the ordnance		14,237
Total	£	146,695

Of the first of these items, 47,686*l.* is on account of the Royal Navy, and 84,772*l.* for allowances and provisions to the troops.

Militia.

10. The laws which regulate the militia service provide for a force consisting of 4,426 rank and file, including eight companies of artillery and 565 cavalry, with an adequate number of officers in both arms. And in case of actual invasion or imminent danger thereof, or of rebellion, the Governor may, with the advice of the Privy Council of Jamaica, direct the enrolment in the several regiments of all the male population between the ages of 21 and 45. For the present however, the militia may be said to be disembodied, the periodical ballots for service having been neglected for some time past ; this, however, is a defect for which I entertain the hope that the legislature will be disposed to provide the necessary remedy, in so far at least as the enrolment of men liable to service is concerned ; but a system of regular drill and muster would, in time of peace, operate so much to the inconvenience of our widely scattered population, except in the the towns, that provisions of law to compel that course would not, I think, be entertained.

Legislation.

11. The legislation of the year 1857 comprises some enactments which there can be little doubt will conduce to the advantage of all classes of the community, when practical effect can be given to them. Without noticing important changes in the former

JAMAICA.

system of taxation as affecting the mass of the people, which, though just in principle, experience had shown was, when applied to a population circumstanced as that of Jamaica, not only a failure in respect of revenue, but a source of constant irritation and wrong; I may refer more particularly to the arrangement by which the care and maintenance of the high roads and bridges are transferred from parochial boards and local trusts to the Executive Government, who will have the services of three qualified civil engineers at their disposal, and are empowered to raise a considerable loan for the purpose of at once effecting solid repairs and improvements; the current revenues which the law provides being at the same time, it is believed, calculated to provide sufficient means for maintaining the roads in their improved condition under a proper system for that purpose.

12. Laws were also passed to enable the Governor to meet in some degree, by means of advances to be repaid by employers, the demands for agricultural labourers of such of the proprietors and lessees of the larger plantations as may find that they cannot altogether depend upon the native supply.

13. These laws were, however, by a misunderstanding in the island as to the precise terms of the conditions upon which immigrants from the East Indies are allowed to be introduced into the West Indian colonies, opposed to the stipulations which the Government of India and Her Majesty's Government consider it necessary to maintain on behalf of the immigrant, and were in consequence disallowed by Her Majesty. There can be no doubt that the local legislature will in its present session obviate these objections; and in reliance upon their adopting this course, Her Majesty's Government have given directions that three thousand Coolies shall, if possible, be despatched to the colony without delay.

14. Under the legislation of the session of 1857, reformatories for vagrant and criminal children, and children abandoned by their parents, were also first recognised as deserving of encouragement and of assistance from the public revenue; and I hope that the defective measure which was passed for that purpose will be improved and rendered more beneficial in the present session.

Pensions.

15. The amount of pensions paid out of the revenues of the colony is 549*l.*, it is distributed amongst 20 recipients, the largest rate being (in two cases) 120*l.*, and the lowest 6*l.*, of which there are seven instances. Most of these allowances are for services rendered and injuries and losses sustained in the last slave rebellion.

Population.

16. The last Census was taken in the year 1844, when the population amounted at the lowest calculation to 377,433, of whom 15,776 were Europeans, and the remainder of the African and Europ-African races.

17. Opinions vary as to whether the natural increase has compensated for the ravages of cholera and smallpox, which have occasioned a fearful mortality since the year referred to, while there seems to be no doubt that the ordinary deaths in infancy from the want of medical and maternal care are relatively larger than in most other countries.

18. The Local Government have proposed to the Legislature, now in session, measures for effecting a fresh enumeration of the population in the year 1859, and for placing medical attendance and medicines within their more easy reach.

Ecclesiastical.

19. The ecclesiastical return shows that in the island there are twenty-two (22) parish churches and seventy-four (74) chapels served by ministers of the Church of England; that these are estimated to contain fifty-two thousand six hundred (52,600) persons, and are reported to be habitually attended by congregations to the extent of thirty-eight thousand four hundred and sixty (38,460). The stipends paid to the clergy amount to about thirty thousand pounds (30,000*l.*) per annum, of which twenty-seven thousand six hundred pounds (27,600*l.*) are contributed from the island revenue, and the remainder is supplied from a parliamentary fund and other fluctuating resources which are dispensed by the Bishop of Jamaica, and in his absence from the colony, by the coadjutor, Bishop of Kingston. The column headed "dissenting places of worship" is, I regret to perceive, barren of information; but I trust that in the Blue Book for 1858 this defect may be supplied.

Education.

20. The following Table shows the number of free schools and schools under the superintendence of the Church of England and other religious denominations, with the number of children returned as attending the same, viz. :—

	Number of Schools.	Number of Scholars attending.
Free schools - - - - -	7	1,335
Schools in connexion with Church of England	108	8,016
Presbyterian Church - - - - -	32	2,187
Baptist - - - - -	42	2,306
Wesleyan - - - - -	35	2,599
Moravian - - - - -	40	2,920
Independent (connected with London Mis- sionary Society) - - - - -	13	1,065
American Mission - - - - -	6	347
Roman Catholic Mission - - - - -	8	379
Total - - - - -	291	21,154

The number of scholars presents a considerable increase upon the number returned in 1856, which was only 16,389; but I am sorry to think that this more favourable appearance is greatly owing to the return for the present year including schools which were omitted in that of 1856. There are not wanting, however, instances, and I am happy to believe they are far from inconsiderable in number, in which earnestness and energy on the part both of societies and individuals are consistently and systematically brought to bear upon the education of the younger classes of the population. More attention too is, I have reason to believe, paid to the accomplishment of real intellectual advancement and the acquisition of useful knowledge than was the case in the earlier years of the history of the emancipated classes. Those engaged in the instruction of youth have been too apt to be content if they could point to a long roll of attendants at school as a proof of the successful progress of their work.

22. More value, too, is now I think attached to the quality of the education conferred; and if this be so, the extent to which it may be spread may well be regarded as of inferior importance. A really good and abiding impression produced upon the minds of a few will doubtless work out results which, though they may be long deferred, will amply compensate for the delay by their more solid and durable character.

Imports and Exports.

23. I transcribe from the Blue Book the following abstract tables of the value of the imports and exports of the year :—

REMARKS.	—
The total amount of Exports from the island of Jamaica is - - - - -	£ s. d. 1,235,496 15 7
But from this must be deducted the amount of British, Foreign, and other Colonial produce and manufactures which has been imported into the island in the first instance, and then exported therefrom - - - - -	52,716 8 3
Leaving the actual value of Exports - £	1,182,780 7 4

JAMAICA.

TOTAL VALUE in Sterling of the IMPORTS and EXPORTS of the Colony of JAMAICA from and to each Country in the Year 1857.

COUNTRIES.	IMPORTS.	EXPORTS.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Great Britain - - - -	488,150 15 1	964,731 19 4
BRITISH COLONIES.		
North American Colonies - - - -	94,979 14 8	13,099 11 4
British West Indies - - - -	12,831 18 0	13,130 11 5
British Settlements, Honduras - - - -	106 10 0	1,369 16 1
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.		
Hanse Towns - - - -	3,799 0 9	52,250 4 9
Madeira - - - -	496 0 0	—
United States - - - -	221,003 10 3	154,683 15 6
New Grenada - - - -	3,350 11 2	18,336 19 3
Venezuela - - - -	621 6 9	—
Dutch West Indies - - - -	1,121 5 8	1,019 3 10
Danish West Indies - - - -	5,963 13 0	1,273 16 9
Spanish West Indies - - - -	2,095 6 3	7,433 0 9
Saint Domingo - - - -	2,630 11 10	8,013 7 7
Guatemala - - - -	—	154 9 0
£	797,150 3 5	1,235,496 15 7

24. If from the value of imports there be deducted the value of British, Foreign, and other Colonial produce re-exported, the result will show the value for consumption at seven hundred and forty-four thousand four hundred and thirty-four pounds (744,434*l.*) But this being the invoice value, the real trade value may be taken at least two fifths higher, and will thus indicate that a million of money is expended in the purchase of imported articles. The total value of imports for the year 1856 was estimated at nine hundred and sixty-one thousand eight hundred and eighty-six pounds (961,886*l.*), while it fell in 1857 to seven hundred and ninety-seven thousand one hundred and fifty pounds (797,150*l.*)

25. The quantities of the principal articles of export stood thus in the years 1856 and 1857 respectively, viz. :—

	1856.	1857.
Sugar - - Cwts.	457,958	549,662
Rum - - Galls.	1,303,902	1,536,779
Coffee - - Lbs.	3,721,740	6,761,075

26. The increase of sugar and rum was, I have no doubt, the effect of the stimulus of high prices inducing extended cultivation; and the augmented export of coffee is generally attributed to the increase of the number of smaller farmers, who cultivate this article upon their own lands and prepare it for market. The necessary processes for that purpose do not demand for their successful conduct and economical result, either the application of capital or the care and science which are essential, if not to the manufacture of the produce of the sugar cane with any profit at all, yet certainly to the attainment of the highest profit of which that manufacture is susceptible.

Shipping.

27. The returns of shipping show a total tonnage of ninety-four thousand eight hundred and seventy-eight (94,878) tons entered at ports in the colony, of which ten thousand and sixty (10,060) tons were in ballast. The tonnage cleared was ninety-two thousand one hundred and three (92,103) tons, of which twenty thousand two hundred and forty (20,240) tons was in ballast, the latter principally to the United States and the Spanish West Indies.

The crews of the vessels engaged in trade with Jamaica, amounted to four thousand six hundred (4,600) souls.

Agriculture.

JAMAICA.

28. There is little, I fear, to note for the year 1857 in regard to improvement in agriculture. I much question whether implements are so much used as was the case at one period since emancipation, but there is no doubt that far greater economy is observed in plantation management generally. The complaint that labour cannot be procured continuously and at critical periods in the progress of cultivation and manufacture, is very general, and is by no means to be discredited, because it is a fact that in some districts the resident supply is greater than the demand. The people are not disposed to migrate from the districts on which they and their forefathers have lived and settle permanently in other quarters. Even in the least fertile parts they can exist without labouring for hire, and many of them are satisfied with this almost aboriginal condition, so long as they can remain in their hereditary haunts.

29. With very rare exceptions, the adult population have gardens and provision grounds of their own, which demand their care to render them productive by eradicating weeds and otherwise assisting the growth of the various esculents that are the objects of cultivation, at precisely the very periods when the staple crops imperatively call for similar attention.

30. I believe this thoroughly engrained habit of cultivating lands for the production of food, which formed a prominent feature of the system of slavery in Jamaica, to be the cause of its prostration as an exporting agricultural country, more than any other of the numerous unfavourable circumstances which have marked the history of the island since freedom was declared.

31. It is gratifying to be able to conclude this notice of the principal statistics of the colony during the year 1857, by recording that the returns under the head of gaols and prisoners, show that, although the population amounts to about three hundred and eighty thousand (380,000), one hundred and sixty-two persons was the total number brought to trial for crimes and offences of a felonious character.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) C. H. DARLING.

P.S.—If no objection presents itself to you, Sir, I shall be glad if my despatch No. 131 of the 20th October last, relative to the Cayman Islands, might be regarded as a part or section of this report.

C. H. D.

CAYMAN ISLANDS.CAYMAN
ISLANDS.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor DARLING to the Right Honourable
Sir EDWARD BULWER LYTTON, Bart.

(No. 131.)

King's House, October 20, 1858.

SIR,

(Received Nov. 20, 1858.)

WHEN I visited the island of Grand Cayman in the month of June last, I ascertained many particulars of the state of the Cayman group, and the condition of their inhabitants. I have since my return obtained additional details, and I beg to submit an abstract of the whole for your information in the following report:—

Population.

2. The population of the Grand Caymans is at present about two thousand two hundred (2,200), of the Little Cayman about one hundred (100); on the Cayman Brach it is confined to a very few temporary sojourners there; about nine hundred (900) of these are blacks, the remainder, with very few exceptions, of the mixed race. The sexes are about equal in number, and the proportion of children under 14 about the same as in other tropical communities. Several hundreds of the inhabitants migrated to the Bay islands shortly after the emancipation of the slaves, there is consequently family connexion between the population of the two groups and frequent intercourse is maintained.

Religious Persuasion.

3. The great majority of the present inhabitants profess to belong to the Presbyterian Church of Scotland. This results from the circumstance that since the death, a few years

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ago, of a clergyman of the Church of England (the Reverend Mr. Sharpe), who was the first minister of religion ever stationed in these islands, and to whose zealous efforts amongst the people abundant testimony was rendered to me, that church seems to have relaxed its care of this portion of its flock; and the Presbyterian Church, principally supported by the mission board of the "United Presbyterian Church" of Scotland, has stepped in and supplied its place.

Missionaries and Schoolmasters.

4. Two missionaries and three trained schoolmasters are maintained in the island mainly by the funds of that society. The annual expenditure of the mission board in aid of churches and schools is about four hundred and thirty pounds (430*l.*), the local contributions amount only to about fifty pounds (50*l.*)

District Churches and School Houses.

5. The island is divided into five districts, in each of which there is a place of worship. I visited that situated at George Town; it is of the plainest description of architecture and material, and capable of containing about four hundred (400) people. I was informed that the chapel at Bodden Town on the south coast of the island is similar in appearance and construction to that at George Town, but rather more capacious. The other three places of worship are of smaller dimensions. They are all served by the two missionaries stationed in the island; those situated in the more populous districts being of course opened for public worship more frequently than the others. The total membership of the churches is about three hundred and fifty (350), and the number of attendants at public worship is upwards of seven hundred (700). I derive these figures from the Presbyterian Church Mission stationed in Jamaica. Besides the three day schools the average attendance at which is from about one hundred and fifty (150) to one hundred and eighty (180). There are Sabbath schools at the several stations (six in number) which are attended by about five hundred (500) persons, chiefly youths.

6. The schoolroom at George Town is commodious and well supplied with school requisites. It is used also for the holding of the magistrates courts, and for the meetings of the local vestry.

Pursuits of the People.

7. The pursuits of the people are shipbuilding, turtle fishing on the coasts of Cuba and the adjoining cays, breeding cattle, and a small description of horses, with the production of the ordinary tropical fruits. These resources are eked out by wrecking, for which the dangers of the opposite coast of Cuba and of the Grand Cayman itself, which is reef bound except upon a portion of its western shore, afford large opportunities.

Shipping.

8. There are at present twenty-one vessels owned in the island; they vary in tonnage from fifty to twelve (50 to 12) tons, and are manned by crews of from six or seven for the larger, and three for the smallest size.

Ship Building.

9. With the exception of one, which is American, these vessels are all built in the island of Grand Cayman. The timber is mahogany, the growth of the island, of which valuable tree I am informed there is a great abundance; the copper nails are fashioned in the island from metal obtained from wrecks, and are said to be of superior workmanship. The other requisite materials are obtained from Jamaica.

10. A vessel which I saw upon the stocks was commended for model and strength of construction by a naval officer of experience who was with me.

Disposal of Produce.

11. The turtle is disposed of to homeward bound merchant ships from Jamaica; the demand I understand sometimes exceeds the supply. When I was at the Grand Cayman this delicacy could not be procured. Their fruit and tropical vegetables, together with poultry, of which they rear a considerable quantity, also find a ready market on board passing merchantmen, and occasionally Her Majesty's cruisers.

Agriculture.

12. The cultivation of the soil is carried on in very small farms or gardens, and entirely by means of the hoe and cutlass; neither carts or ploughs, nor other machines or implements worked by animal labour, being employed. Besides the ordinary fruit and vegetables of the climate they raise a little corn (maize) and guinea corn or millet.

Stock.

13. The number of cattle in the Grand Cayman is believed to be about one thousand (1,000), and of horses from three to four hundred (300 to 400); but the information given to me upon this point did not profess to be very accurate. There are also a few sheep, apparently of an inferior kind; these are sometimes sold to the shipping. Their price at the time of my visit was about twenty-five shillings (1*l.* 5*s.*) apiece. Domestic fowls were about one shilling apiece; and their horses, of a handy description (mere ponies in stature), were valued at from five to seven pounds each.

14. I was informed that during recent years some thirty or forty of these animals had been annually conveyed to and sold in Jamaica, but it was regretted that this branch of trade was falling off.

Roads.

15. There is one so called road round the island, and three which traverse it. These lines of communication are however mere bridle tracks, and are kept in a passable state at an expenditure of less than fifty pounds (50*l.*) a year, which amount the vestry raise under local regulations.

Medical Men.

16. There is no medical man in the island. The inhabitants affirm the climate to be very healthy; but upon this and other points relating to the physical description of the island, I would beg to refer to a document transmitted by my predecessor with his Despatch, No. 18., of 9th February 1854, which emanated from the present senior magistrate, Mr. Eden, and another intelligent resident at Grand Cayman. During the short period which has elapsed since that document was drawn up the physical characteristics of the islands have not of course altered.

Lawyers.

17. There is no attorney, solicitor, or other professional lawyer residing in the islands.

Minerals and Manufactures.

18. There are no indications of minerals, nor is any manufacture (except ship building) carried on.

Moral Condition of the Inhabitants.

19. With respect to the moral condition of the inhabitants, I was assured, by more than one of the magistrates, that, owing to the great change which had resulted from the zealous exertions of the Ministers of the Gospel who have of late years laboured amongst them, concubinage is rare, serious crime almost unknown, and that minor offences are very few, while the places of public worship are well attended.

Political and Administrative Condition.

20. The political and administrative condition of the islands is unsatisfactory and anomalous. Although understood to be attached to one of the western parishes of Jamaica, and believed as I found to belong to each of three parishes, neither the laws nor the institutions of the colony practically extend to them. I believe the only instance in which the laws of Jamaica distinctly recognize the Caymans is in directing the remission of duties upon goods exported to them from Jamaica.

21. Magistrates, with jurisdiction restricted to the islands, are appointed by the Governor of Jamaica, and during many years a custos was also nominated, in imitation or pursuance of the system which prevails in Jamaica. Upon the occasion of the last vacancy, however, no resident, considered at all qualified for the office, could be found willing to undertake it.

CAYMAN
ISLANDS.

22. It appears that on the 5th December 1831, the inhabitants assembled and took steps for forming a constitution of their own, which is thus described in the prefatory pages of an imperfect manuscript copy of the "Local Laws of Grand Cayman," now before me, viz., Grand Cayman.

"At a meeting held at St. James's on the 5th December 1831, it was resolved that representatives should be elected for the different districts throughout the island, for the purpose of framing local laws for its better government. The representatives for the different districts were accordingly elected on the 10th of same month, and met at George Town said island pursuant to advertisement, on the 31st December 1831, and on the 2d January 1832. The magistrates also assembled, but did not sit in the same room with the representatives, forming as it were two houses, in imitation of the Council and Assembly of Jamaica; and no law formed or passed by the representatives to be deemed valid until it has received the assent of the magistrates. The names of the magistrates and representatives are as follow:—John Drayton, Esq., senior magistrate, Robert Stephen Watler, Waide W. Bodden, John S. Jackson, James Coe, junior, Abraham A. Feurtado, Ebin T. Parsons, and Nath. Glover, Esquires, magistrates, and George W. Wood, James H. Wood, James Coe, senior, W. Eden, junior, John Goodhem, James Parsons, senior, William James Bodden, Thomas Lindsay Thomson, Samuel Parsons, and William Bodden, vestrymen."

23. The earlier proceedings of this self-constituted legislature are frequently adverted to in the despatches of one of my predecessors, the Marquis of Sligo, and the tendency of some of the local regulations which were adopted is decried by his lordship.

24. At a later date, namely, in November 1837, the magistrates and representatives passed a resolution declaring that henceforth their meetings should be designated meetings of the "justices and vestry," but the resolutions of this new body have, I observe, assumed the form of enactments; and many of the subjects to which they refer are such as generally constitute the subjects of state legislation.

25. Under those regulations, however, and a species of customary law which has been in operation for more than one generation, questions respecting property are adjudicated and offenders tried and sentenced for capital offences. At this moment an appeal relating to the inheritance of land is before me, and was made in accordance with precedent, although the Governor of Jamaica has, I conceive, no legal power to interfere in such questions; and three years have scarcely elapsed since an offender was tried by the magistrates of Grand Cayman for murder, and sentenced to imprisonment for life.

26. The prisoner was forwarded to the Kingston Penitentiary, where he remained until I recently remitted the unexpired period of his sentence, in consequence partly of the legal irregularity of the proceedings against him and partly of his extremely good conduct in the penitentiary.

27. However objectionable it may be that a body of Her Majesty's subjects should at the present day constitute a society so little under the influence of law and government, yet I believe that the inhabitants generally are not dissatisfied with its present state in this respect. The sentiments of the magistrates and principal residents are conveyed in an address which they were good enough to present to me, and a copy of which I have the honour to enclose.

28. In reply I thanked them orally for the welcome they had afforded me, and invited them to a free discussion upon their public affairs.

29. I found the subject-matter of many of their representations to be beyond the effective reach of Government, such as slackness in the little trade they ever had enjoyed (arising no doubt from the paucity of exchangeable commodities of native production), and a diminution in the number of wrecks; the latter subject was referred to, apparently in perfect simplicity, as if it were one of just lamentation and regret.

30. They complained, however, that their fishing off the cays on the coast of Cuba was now interfered with by the government of that island, in localities where they had formerly been permitted to enjoy it; but, upon pressing my inquiries, I found that, this complaint rested much upon the question, what is, according to international law, to be considered an uninhabited island; and that the cays from whose shores they had been warned off, though uninhabited during the greater part of the year, were occupied during the remainder by one or two families, or perhaps only as many individuals, being Spanish subjects.

Enclosure.
19th June 1858.

31. I gathered from the persons with whom I conversed that the Caymanese have abandoned the pretensions advanced in the memorial transmitted in Sir Henry Barkly's Despatch, No. 18, of 9th February 1854, and their desires now seemed limited to the provisions of a small salary for the maintenance of a stipendiary magistrate.

32. I propose to apply to the Legislature of Jamaica to make a grant for this purpose upon a very moderate scale; and to base the application in some degree upon the fact that the Caymanese vessels have been hitherto dealt with in respect to tonnage duties as foreign vessels. I shall also suggest to the legislature, in the event of the proposal being favourably received, to discontinue the system of granting the drawback upon imported goods exported from Jamaica to the Cayman Islands (which, however, only amounted in 1857 to fifty-nine pounds seven shillings and threepence (59*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.*)

33. If the magistrate should also hold the commission of sub-collector of customs, he might receive, in addition to his salary, a commission upon the value of the few goods which are imported into Grand Cayman direct from the United States, which, however, is at present very inconsiderable.

34. I have also taken steps to obtain a complete copy of the rules and resolutions which pass under the name of the "Local Laws of Grand Cayman;" and I shall consult with the attorney general as to the best mode of revising and digesting these, with a view to giving legal effect through the medium of an Act of the legislature of Jamaica, to such of them as appear unobjectionable.

35. As to placing the Cayman Islands under a distinct but subordinate administration, I am satisfied they do not possess the proper material for such an organization, even upon the simple system which prevails in the Bay Islands.

36. I have no doubt that the wish of the inhabitants, or rather of those principal inhabitants with whom I communicated, is, that one of themselves should be appointed to the magistracy if established; but I cannot recommend that arrangement; and if I succeed in obtaining from the Jamaica legislature the necessary authority and means to carry the proposed measure into effect, I shall of course await the intimation of your commands before I take any step whatever for that purpose.

37. In closing this despatch I would beg to observe that the records of the colonial office during the administration of the Marquis of Sligo will, I conclude, afford the fullest information as to the circumstances under which the former slave owners of the Cayman Islands lost the benefit of the four years apprenticeship of their former slaves.

38. I have understood that a balance of the parliamentary grant of twenty millions for slave compensation is still undisposed of. If this be the case, Her Majesty's Government might perhaps be induced to consider whether any portion of it could be applied under parliamentary enactment for the purpose, to the benefit of the Caymanese community, in consideration of the diminution of its material wealth which the loss of the apprenticeship may have occasioned.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) C. H. DARLING.

Enclosure.

Encl. in No. 7.

The humble Petition of the Inhabitants of Grand Cayman.

To his Excellency C. H. Darling, Esq., Governor of Jamaica, &c. &c.

May it please your Excellency,

THE suddenness of the occasion allows us but a brief opportunity to express the gratification afforded us by your Excellency's visit to our shores, while we deplore our inability to give a public demonstration of our joy in a proper reception of your Excellency as the representative of our august sovereign Queen Victoria.

The state of our island, morally, is greatly improved; temporally, it is retrogressive; politically, it is loyal; but, judicially, we must confess, laxity. Repeated failures to obtain, in our isolated position, timely assistance, protection, or notice either from the Home or Colonial Government, have induced an apathy to public affairs injurious to the well-being of the community; besides which, the position of those in authority is such, that one is wholly engrossed with his private affairs, another is unable to devote his time gratuitously for the public good, and another wearied with unavailing efforts for the amelioration of the public condition ceases to strive; and to day our reminiscences of the past compared with the present is a source of grief to us.

JAMAICA.

In your Excellency's visit we hail the dawn of better things, and humbly desire to be instructed and assisted according to your Excellency's superior judgment.

With earnest desires towards the welfare of your Excellency, and the continued prosperity of your Government, we beg to subscribe ourselves,

Your Excellency's

Most obedient humble servants,

(Signed)

W. EDEN, sen., J. P.

JAS. COE.

EDWARD PARSONS, J. P.

THOS. S. WATTIS, sen., Capt. M.

J. BERNARD.

W. N. THOMPSON.

J. J. WOOD.

WILLIAM B. WEBSTER.

19th June 1858.

In behalf of the inhabitants of Grand Cayman.

(True copy.)

(Signed)

HUGH W. AUSTIN,

Secretary.

HONDURAS.**HONDURAS.**

No. 8.

No. 8.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor DARLING to the Right Hon. Lord STANLEY.

(No. 29.)

King's House, Jamaica, June 8, 1858.

(Received July 3, 1858.)

MY LORD,

No. 42. of
16 May 1858.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a Despatch from the Superintendent of Honduras, transmitting the Blue Book of that settlement for the year 1857.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. H. DARLING.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. in No. 8.

Enclosure in No. .

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Superintendent SERMOUR to Governor DARLING.

(No. 42.)

SIR,

Belize, May 16, 1858.

No. 5.
11 Feb. 1857.
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No. 14.
20 Feb. 1858.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of this settlement for the year 1857. In doing so I may say at the outset that I feel myself relieved from the duty of minutely inquiring into the transactions of the year, by the reports, numbered and dated as in the margin, which my predecessor transmitted previous to his relinquishment of the conduct of affairs.

2. In the revenue there is an increase of 2,505*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.*, caused, to a great extent, by the circumstance that the Act imposing a tax on sugar and rum manufactured in the settlement was in operation during the whole of the year just elapsed, whereas in 1856 it only extended over the last four months. But this will only account for a part of the increase of receipts; and it is with pleasure that I call your attention to a general improvement in productiveness. Under one head only is there a decrease. The falling off in the tonnage duties is owing to the accidental circumstance of an unusually wet season, having prevented the removal of much of the mahogany cut during the year being conveyed from the forests where it grew within the influence of water carriage.

3. Across the columns headed "Public Debt" the Colonial Secretary has written the statement "balance in favour of the public on the 31st December 1857, 4,013*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.*"

4. Considerable progress has been made in the public works. The new gaol has approached sufficiently near completion to render it available for the reception of

prisoners. New schoolrooms are on the point of completion, which, it is estimated, will cost the settlement about 5,000*l*. HONDURAS.

5. The legislative measures of the year were fully reported on by Mr. Superintendent Stevenson in the despatches already referred to.

6. The civil establishment presents no change, save in the persons of several public officers.

7. Under the head "pensions" will be found a description of our injudicious mode of providing for the destitute members of the community. The attention of the public has now, I think, been awakened to a sense of the inconvenience of the present system of affording relief, and I propose inviting the Legislative Assembly, at its next session, to remodel the poor laws.

8. I call attention to the list of foreign consuls, as doubts have been professed to be entertained by some persons as to the character of our territorial rights in British Honduras. It will be observed that Mexico is represented by a consul in Belize; Spain and Guatemala by vice-consuls. France likewise has a vice-consul at this port.

9. The population of the settlement is estimated by the Colonial Secretary at 19,000. I believe it to be much more considerable. I have received from the fathers of the society of Jesus a census recently taken roughly by them of such towns, villages, and mahogany works as are partially or entirely inhabited by Roman Catholics; but the list does not include places exclusively Protestant. I have added the race, as it may not be uninteresting to show the mixed nature of our population.

San Pedro	-	380	Spanish Yucatecan refugees.
Sarteneja	-	250	Yucatecos and Indians.
Punta Consejo	-	300	"
" Allegre	-	100	"
Lourie's Bight	-	250	Yucatecos, Indians, and Creoles.
Corosal	-	4,500	Yucatecos principally, but some Indians and Creoles.
Pembroke Hall	-	30	Creoles.
Santa Cruz	-	20	Yucatecos.
Caledonia	-	100	Creoles.
Narrows	-	2	Yucatecos.
Shecum	-	60	"
San Esteban	-	1,300	"
Tower Hill	-	30	Creoles and Yucatecos.
Orange Walk	-	400	"
Richmond Hill	-	50	Yucatecos and Indians.
Guinea Grass	-	150	Yucatecos and Creoles.
Smith Bank	-	30	Yucatecos.
Backlanding	-	150	Creoles and Indians.
Duck Run	-	300	Spaniards and Indians from Guatemala.
Moll Punch's Hole	-	50	Creoles.
Sta. Elena	-	100	Yucatecos.
Sapote Chico	-	50	Ditto and Creoles.
Sapote Grande	-	50	"
Douglas	-	300	Creoles.
Cocos	-	100	Yucatecos and Indians.
San Antonio	-	200	Yucatecos.
Limones	-	30	"
Agua Blanca	-	30	"
Corosal Chico	-	400	"
Pinaba	-	50	"
Santa Cruz (Rio Hond.)	-	25	"
Rio Norte	-	300	Creoles and Yucatecos.
Rio Viego	-	1,200	"
Sibim	-	150	Creoles and Indians.
Sapodilla Lagoon	-	40	Charibs.
Gill's Point	-	200	Creoles.
Stanu Creek	-	1,100	Charibs.
Mullin's River	-	400	Refugees from the State of Honduras.
Caucas Bight	-	30	Charibs.
Settee	-	150	Charibs and Creoles.

HONDURAS.	Lower Stanu Creek	-	100	Charibs.
	Jonathan's Point	-	100	"
	Hanlover	-	60	"
	Silver Creek	-	150	"
	Placencia	-	35	Creoles.
	River Sanis	-	10	Charibs.
	Ribartais	-	10	Ditto and Creoles.
	Mono's River	-	67	"
	Seven Hills	-	130	Charibs.
	Punta Gorda	-	400	"
			13,419	
	Belize	-	5,000	Persons from all parts of the civilized world.
Total			18,419	

10. This census is obviously faulty, as any person acquainted with the settlement would at once mention half a dozen villages left out; nor does it include the many inhabited cays along the coast, nor the forests where thousands of Indians are believed to lurk. A census of British Honduras must for many years to come be founded on conjecture. But there can be no doubt that the population is increasing daily; and this flourishing settlement presents a striking contrast to the neighbouring province of Yucatan. In a "memoria" laid before the congress at Merida by the Secretary to Government on the 20th July 1857, it is stated that the census of 1854 showed only a population of 256,381 inhabitants, whereas that of 1841 gave 504,685, a decrease of 248,254. The Secretary Pindo accounts for it by civil wars, cholera, smallpox, and also, perhaps, from the circumstance that the census of 1854 is probably not so correct as that of 1841. But, with a population which at the lowest computation is still about ten times that of this settlement, the revenue of Yucatan only exceeds that of British Honduras, where the taxation is lighter than in any of our West Indian Colonies, by 24,000 dollars.

11. I trust that on a future occasion I shall be able to give a fuller account of this settlement, so interesting and so little known. The history of the most eventful portion of 1857 has been already given by Mr. Stevenson, and if I were to repeat it on this occasion, I should do so best by transcribing his own words; besides, it is not alien to the subject of a despatch which purports to treat of the progress and present state of the settlement to say that if I were to be more diffuse I could not, with the present present pressure of business, get my communication copied. The greater portion of these remarks were written previous to the departure of the April packet; but, though I was then giving and still offering thirty shillings a day for additional clerical assistance, every person of education in the settlement was so fully occupied, or so independent, that the Blue Book of Honduras had to be kept back for a month. It is hardly an inappropriate termination to a report on the present state of the settlement to mention that this and several other of the despatches I am addressing to your Excellency will be sent off at daybreak to-morrow to be copied for signature in Corosal, 90 miles off, and that the small vessel which proceeds specially on this voyage, and will have to wait for the papers, is manned by a crew receiving four shillings a day a head and rations. I cannot give a better proof of the prosperity of the settlement than by showing what salaries and wages the profits of trade will allow the merchants and mahogany cutters of Honduras to give.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FREDERICK SEYMOUR.

His Excellency Governor Darling,
&c. &c. &c.

BAHAMAS.

BAHAMAS.

No. 9.

No. 9.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor BAYLEY to the Right Honourable
Sir E. B. LYTTON, Bart.

(No. 79.)

Government House, Nassau, Bahamas,
July 20, 1858.

(Received September 18, 1858.)

SIR,

I have the honour herewith to transmit the Blue Book of the Bahamas for 1857.

2. It is not in my power to picture a striking advance in the prosperity of the colony, nor ought I to feel surprised at this inability when I consider how small is our population in proportion to the number and size of the islands over which it is diffused, and recollect its antecedent history. But it is satisfactory that I am able to report a certain increase both in the value of colonial exports and the amount of colonial revenue for the year 1857, as compared with the year 1856.

Revenue.

3. The nett revenue for the year 1856 was 25,120*l.*, that for 1857 was 30,592*l.*; but of this, I gather from a report made to me by the receiver-general, the whole was not paid into the treasury during that year, the practice being to enter all duties to the credit of the treasury when the goods are imported, but to take bonds for their payment at six months' date. According to this practice some portion of the 30,592*l.* only became payable *after* the commencement of the present year. In fact we had to borrow 1,000*l.* from the bank at the beginning of this year for defraying the ordinary expenses of the government; but I believe there is every probability of our being able to liquidate this debt before the end of 1858.

Exports and Imports.

4. The exports of produce raised in the colony exhibit a gratifying increase, for while those of 1856 just reached to 36,000*l.* those of 1857 amounted to more than 52,000*l.* The principal increase was in the articles of pineapples, sponges, and shells; of the first-named fruit no less a quantity than 120,000 dozen was exported in the course of last year to the United Kingdom and the United States; and I am happy to add that this species of cultivation is likely to develop itself still further in the islands of Eleuthera, and San Salvador. But while I contemplate with just satisfaction this progress in one branch of colonial industry, I regret to announce the decline of another and once a more important staple. The exports of salt are not only not increasing, but are positively falling off in value; for while in 1856 they reached 9,475*l.*, in 1857 they did not exceed 9,151*l.* I fear that, in truth, the manufacture of salt in these islands is in a most precarious position; various causes have contributed to its instability: labour is dear, desultory, and inadequate; the seasons capricious; the capital of the manufacturers scant and insufficient. When the weather is favourable the labourers go a-wrecking; or, if they stay, haggle for an impossible rate of wages. By the time that they have made up their minds to labour, and their work is half done, the rain comes down and spoils all the salt which they have made. It is the perpetual repetition of this barren process, this iteration of fruitless effort and defeated purpose, which inspires the salt makers with disgust and despair. At the present moment I am informed that there is lying in the ponds of Inagua a greater quantity of salt than has been made for many years past, but no offers within the means of the proprietors, can induce the people to help in raking it out of the pans; consequently, there is every prospect of the crop being lost. Evils of this kind might be remedied by one of two alternative conditions, each of which, I fear, is equally remote. If the native labourers were more numerous and more eager for employment, or if the proprietors possessed ampler means of introducing foreign labour, the tantalizing vexations and risks to which I have just alluded could never occur, and the salt proprietors might, without eventual loss, submit to a diminution of price equal to that which now affects their interests. This depreciation in the markets of the United States, has, I am told, been caused by a growing preference of English salt, which is now used for purposes to which it was once supposed that Bahama salt was exclusively adapted. I believe that the competition of English salt would not, by itself, injuriously affect our island salt proprietors. It is only when combined with

BAHAMAS. — their want of labour, and of capital, that it helps to produce that distrust and discouragement which so generally prevail among them.

Before I quit this portion of my subject, I would beg leave to draw your attention to the signal excess of imports and exports. The *total* value of the latter is 140,195*l.* (inclusive of wrecked property re-exported,) of the former 211,423*l.* Now, this excess is not exceptional and unusual. It is the normal relation of exports and imports in this colony. I believe the phenomenon may be explained by the fact that the declared value of our exports is far below their real value in the markets in which they are sold. A higher price is paid to the Nassau merchant for the fruit which he exports than he or his agent pays to the cultivator of whom he bought it, and the latter again probably under-rates the value of the produce which he has sold; and I have reason to believe that of wrecked property salved here and re-exported to the United States (as it generally is) the value declared here is considerably below the money received for it. These differences between real and official prices, combined with the expenditure for the troops, will, I believe, nearly suffice to adjust the balance between the value of our imports and that of our exports.

I now proceed to the important subject of education.

Education.

5. Treating, Sir, of this subject, I am happy to draw your attention, as I drew that of Mr. Labouchere, to the instance of laudable, and I believe, exceptional liberality displayed by the local legislature. Poor as this colony may be, possessing no large commercial relations, ungifted with extraordinary natural resources, and with such resources as it does possess slightly and imperfectly developed; it yet expends upon the education of its poorer classes a larger proportion of its means than many other colonies which boast of far greater wealth. With a population of not more than 28,000 souls, and a revenue which does not average more than 29,000*l.*, it bestows 1,500*l.* a year on the instruction of some 2,000 children, while schools under the auspices of the Church of England educate 1,100 more. Did the practical results of this education, as illustrated by the dispositions, characters, and opinions of its recipients, more adequately correspond to the retentiveness of their memories or the aptness of their answers at their school examinations, the whole system would deserve unmixed commendation. But we are discovering here what they have already discovered in England, viz., that to impart the arts of reading and writing, or to cram the memory with scriptural phrases or historical facts, is not to do all that is required for the instruction of the poor; still there must be some few superior minds on which this teaching falls with good and fertilizing effect. These may in their turn influence others, and in future years fruits may be discovered, which it has not hitherto been our good fortune to witness, and perhaps it might be justly supposed that, whatever may be the faults observable in those adults whose education has been received in our government schools or in those of the church, they are small compared with those which might have been imputed to them, had they been left to grow up amidst the ignorance, idleness, and prejudices of their own semi-barbarous and uneducated parents. While I thus regret that education has not done all that it was expected to do for the poorer classes of our community, I equally regret that for those of a higher grade it can be hardly said to exist at all. There is not in the Bahamas any public, and, indeed there is hardly any private education for those youths who intend devoting themselves to commercial or professional life. This leads me towards a subject on which I propose to do myself the honour of specially addressing you at some future time, one, that is important both here and elsewhere, as involving the suggestion of a remedy for evils felt not less in other colonies than in this. I have stated that here no organization exists for giving a liberal education to the sons of the more affluent and prominent members of society. A few years ago there was a collegiate institution in Nassau, but this I am informed fell to the ground in one of those contests which too often spring from questions of colour and race in tropical colonies; and now the sons of our merchants, lawyers, and doctors, are forced either to dispense with a liberal education altogether or to go to the United States to complete their studies under teachers and a system which are, as far as possible, unlike English teachers and English teaching. Should it at any time be my good fortune to see a public academical institution re-organized here, I shall feel it my duty to lay before you a proposition for connecting it with one of the distinguished seats of learning in England by the bond of foundation endowments. For I am confident that the best mode of imparting to the young men of an English colony the tone of English manners and sympathy with English feelings, is to furnish them with some inducement to com-

plete their course of study at one of those institutions in which the minds and tastes of successive generations of English gentlemen have been formed; but the proposition is too wide to be mooted thus parenthetically in a Blue Book report; I therefore reserve its ampler discussion for a separate despatch.

Summary.

6. I fear that this report of the prospects of the colony is not on the whole more encouraging than was that of last year. I still adhere to the general tenor of the opinions which I then expressed, and I see little reason to modify the terms in which some of them were embodied. I still believe (as is believed by others possessing larger and longer experience than myself) that it will be vain to expect from this people that continuous and assiduous devotion to manual industry, which alone could assure the success of great agricultural or manufacturing enterprises. But although they are not likely to emulate the industrial energy of the free labourer in Europe, or realise the results of slave labour in the Tropics, I still think that they will continue to make a slow but defined advance in the cultivation of their own grounds and the production of those fruits and cereals, which, while they suit the genius of the soil are profitable for exportation or necessary for the subsistence of their cultivators. The progress which they have made at the out islands of Eleuthera and San Salvador shows what they are able to do as petty proprietors. Indeed the love of the soil and the desire to have a proprietary right in its possession, are as strongly innate characteristics of the negro Creole as of the Hindoo or the Irishman. As proprietors, working on their own account, they will toil more constantly than they ever would consent to do as hired labourers; and so slight is their providence or ambition that they would, as a class, infinitely rather eke out a bare subsistence by moderate labour on their own small holdings, than earn the means of augmenting their property by working as hirelings for others. Thus, there is little reason to expect that, notwithstanding the favourable conditions of soil and climate, they will ever assist to raise in any quantity those staple articles of sugar and cotton which were raised so abundantly in the olden time. The want of physical energy and of moral resolution which so signally distinguishes the character of the African, forbid such an expectation. But it is some consolation to reflect that the same want of energy which renders him an unequal competitor with his English compeer in the field of peaceful industry, makes him also a humble and distant rival in the arena of violence and strife. If the Creole is not so constant, so conscientious, or so efficient a labourer at one time, neither is he at other times so reckless, so hotheaded, or so violent a peace-breaker, as our English or Irish working man. That he is contented with small enjoyments, and prefers repose to the exertion by which he could enlarge them, may be regretted by the financier, the capitalist, and the political economist: but it can hardly, of itself, be condemned as a vicious defect in his moral constitution. We may lament that such is the case. We may deplore the consequences which flow from it. We may regret to see opportunities of colonial and imperial wealth lost to us and our dependencies. We may sigh as we trace the ruins of an obsolete industry, or track the half-concealed roads that once intersected flourishing plantations: and we may repine at the fortune which has requited our benevolence by transferring our wealth and prosperity to less just or less self-denying rivals. But, while we murmur, we can hardly censure. The African never told us in the day of bondage that, when he was free, he would work for us. His industry was vouched by others, never by himself. He never deceived us. We deceived ourselves or allowed others to deceive us on his behalf. Indeed, he told us then that he would be idle, when and as long as he had the power; and he has kept his word handsomely. We therefore cannot justly blame him for the non-fulfilment of stipulations which neither he nor his fathers contracted, and for the disappointment of hopes which neither of them encouraged. What he is now in the full ear, he was then in the germ. And it might not be difficult to find both an explanation and a palliation of conduct which often vexes our self-interest and our self-love. It is true that (speaking generally) he is lazy and apathetic, that he over-estimates his capacity and acquirements, that he confounds civil freedom with social equality, that he repudiates as dishonourable, or at least as discreditable, those terms by which in the civilized states of Europe the relations of employer and employed are described alike without arrogance and without shame. These allegations are, in the main, (though of course, with some few exceptions) true. But much of what they convey may be palliated by antecedent circumstances; by the bitter recollections of obsolete slavery; by the acrimonious denunciations lavished on those who had an interest in it by those who had none; by the sectarian animosity which pervaded the teachings of the negro slave's instructors, by the high-toned assertion of his unqualified right to freedom; and, not least, by his own sanguine anticipation of the illimitable indulgence which

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freedom was destined to confer. All these things, followed by an education which, I think, does teach pretentiousness, and may teach hypocrisy, could hardly fail to render him such as he is. Nor should it be forgotten that here (as probably elsewhere through the West Indies,) the African Creole has not enjoyed that beneficent influence which has done so much to correct and mould the characters of the labouring classes at home. Remove the English labourer from contact with the ranks above him, from communion with the squire, from consultation with the rector, from the considerate benevolence of the squire's or the rector's wife; and what becomes him? Compare the counties where the resident gentry and clergy are numerous with those where there are few gentry or clergy, and how marked is the difference. Compare too, those manufactures where the employers are men of education and refinement with those where they are neither educated nor refined, and note the difference in the manners and demeanour of the artizans. Here and in many other islands there has long ceased to be (if ever there existed) a class of society with the leisure and the disposition to devote itself to the amenities of life. We have no grade exempted from the cares and struggles of professional rivalry or mercantile competition, and free to expend its time on the cultivation of the gentler humanities. The white proprietor of former days probably was more frequently anxious to secure a quick return for the capital which he had invested in cotton or slaves than to improve the moral condition of his prædial labourers. But the white proprietor of that stamp exists no more. His representative of modern times is perhaps not much less solicitous than his predecessors for the security of his investments, and is perhaps too much disgusted with the apathy or inertness of his negro servants to expend time or thought on an analysis of the defects by which he himself suffers. In short, the negro Creole is rarely subjected to influences which can elevate or refine him. I do not ascribe much value to the use of the religious phraseology with which he sometimes interlards his conversation, and which I do not think is of much advantage in forming his character. Left, therefore, to himself, he is gradually forming for himself and his class opinions which, whether for good or for evil, are of a negative rather than of a positive character. I do not think that, in these islands at least, he is likely to be excited to crimes of violence. But I think he will remain equally insensible to high aspirations and incapable of that resolute perseverance which an ingenuous ambition inspires. He will probably continue to repine in silence at what he considers an unfair inequality between himself and the white population; but he will in only rare instances attempt to emulate that industry, that economy, that self-denial, that stubborn perseverance, by which the lower orders of the race he envies have so often acquired for themselves wealth, station, and importance.

7. I have dwelt so long upon this part of the subject, because it involves considerations of immediate relevancy to the future prospects of this colony. Our poverty is mainly attributable to two causes, the paucity and the inertness of our ex-apprentice population. They can all live with little labour, and they have no ambition to do more than live; but it would be unfair to conceal the existence of other causes nearly as powerful as these. We are isolated from the world. We have not much more than a monthly communication with England by our mail schooner. Our relations with the United States are those of a petty traffic rather than an established commerce. I feel assured that our condition might be signally improved by the establishment of regular steam communication with New York. It would give an impetus and extension at once to our fruit trade. It would bring to our islands Americans not only as visitors, but as settlers and speculators. It would ultimately substitute men of capital for men of no capital. It would gradually bribe the energy of native or the adventurousness of foreign labour; and thus it would develop in our out islands resources which are imperfectly known to the residents. More than this, it would fix the connecting link of communication between the Transatlantic and the West India steamers, forming, so to speak, a circuit of navigation which would have both its commencement and its termination in England, and include in its course the United States and the West India Islands. I think it superfluous to dilate on the great advantages which such a communication could not fail to confer not only on these islands, but on the western commerce of Great Britain.

With these observations I conclude the Report which I have the honour to transmit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. J. BAYLEY,
Governor.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.
&c. &c. &c.

TURKS ISLANDS.

TURKS
ISLANDS.

No. 10.

No. 10.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Governor DARLING to the Right Hon.
Sir E. B. LYTTON, Bart.

(No. 30.)

King's House, Jamaica, July 9, 1858.

(Received August 2, 1858.)

SIR,

IN transmitting the accompanying Despatch from the President of the Turks and Caicos Islands, forwarding the Blue Book for the year 1857, I beg leave to enclose a copy of the letter which I have addressed to Mr. Inglis in reply; and, in fulfilment of the intimation therein made, I beg to invite your attention to the suggestion made by Mr. Inglis, that the Church Missionary Aid Society might be induced to extend their operations to the Turks Islands.

2. I think that the President is under a mistaken impression with respect to the difficulty of furnishing a comprehensive statement of the revenue and expenditure of the Presidency, which I have in my reply to his despatch endeavoured to remove.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) C. H. DARLING.

Enclosure 1.

Enclosure 2.

Enclosure 1. in No. 10.

Encl. 1 in No. 10.

(Separate, No. 40.)

SIR,

Government House, Grand Turk, June 17, 1858.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of this colony for 1857.

2. Referring to your Excellency's Despatch No. 19. of the 12th September 1857, paragraphs 4 and 5, I regret that the Colonial Secretary has been unable to meet the views therein expressed, further than by endeavouring to give a clearer exposition of the revenue of the colony, whether derived from customs' duties on imports and exports, raised by ordinances of the Legislative Council, and which may be more properly considered the colonial revenue, deposited in the colonial treasury, and under the control of the legislature, or from the salt pond rents and sale of Crown lands, which form Her Majesty's Crown Funds of the colony, and are under the sole control of Her Majesty's Government. To place these funds under incidental revenue, as your excellency suggested, appears to be impracticable, as long as they remain unfused with the colonial revenue, and are collected and disbursed by another officer than the receiver-general.

3. The Crown Funds were, I believe, not originally intended to be used or considered as revenue, in the strict acceptation of the word, although the principle of their expenditure within the colony has been recognised as a just one. Their legitimate use was destined for the improvement of the salt ponds, and reclaiming uncultivated salinas, by which means the revenue and the colony generally would be benefited; for necessary public works, as well as for buildings of such descriptions as are called for, more particularly in a new colony, many of which undertakings, in consequence of these funds being diverted into other channels, have been delayed, and are still likely to be so, for an indefinite period. One of these necessary public works, viz., the defence from the encroachment of the sea on the west side of Grand Turk, which threatens destruction both to salinas and the town itself, and towards which incommensurate measures only can be taken from want of adequate means, would, if duly carried out, absorb of itself the Crown Funds for a series of years.

4. Should the estimates for 1859 receive the sanction of Her Majesty's Government, the sum of 500%, which I have proposed to be paid for a term of years from the Crown Funds, in aid of the colonial revenue, (which will in fact be placing a certain portion of the Crown Fund at the disposition of the Legislative Council,) will appear in the Blue Book for that year under the head of incidental revenue. In the meanwhile, and in the absence of any other suggestion, the Crown Funds appear under the head of "local revenues" at page 34 of the present Blue Book.

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5. In order, however, to show more clearly the entire resources and expenditure of the colony, the Colonial Secretary has inserted an additional sheet at page 27 among the Blue Book returns, which, if considered unnecessary, can easily be withdrawn, without detriment to the rest, and does not interfere with the numerical succession of the other pages.

6. Thereon will be found an abstract of the total revenue, from whatever source derived, showing more clearly the existing financial resources of the colony, and correcting the erroneous impression which might arise from an inspection of the "Abstract of the net revenue and expenditure" wherein the words "total revenue" and "total expenditure" show only those arising and defrayed from customs' duties.

7. This additional statement shows the total revenue receipts of the colony in 1857 to have amounted to 11,100*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.*, viz:—

Arrears of general revenue from 1856	-	-	-	£	s.	d.
				788	13	10 ³ / ₄
Revenue from customs in 1857	-	-	5,938	19	2	
„ Incidental	-	-	13	11	10	
				5,952	11	0
				6,741	4	10 ³ / ₄
Arrears of salt pond rentals from 1856	-	186	11	3 ¹ / ₄		
Balance from 1856	-	-	832	5	2 ¹ / ₄	
Salt pond rentals, 1857	-	-	3,287	6	1 ³ / ₄	
Sales of Crown lands and other small receipts		53	10	4 ³ / ₄		
				4,359	13	0 ¹ / ₄
Total receipts	-	-	-	-	11,100	17 11

It also shows the total expenditure to have amounted to 10,260*l.* 8*s.* 10³/₄*d.*, viz:—

Expenditure from colonial revenue	-	-	-	-	£	s.	d.
					6,030	5	1
Expenditure from Crown Funds	-	-	-	-	4,230	3	9 ³ / ₄
					10,260	8	10 ³ / ₄

8. An idea has been obtained here, originated and fostered by designing persons desirous of establishing a grievance, and who are not wanting even among those from whom we have a right to expect better things, that in calculating the amount of individual taxation in this colony the Crown Funds should be considered a portion of that taxation, although it is well known that the proprietors of the salt ponds, the tenants of the Crown, receive generally not only far more than an equivalent for their rent, but, actually reversing the order of landlord and tenant, have a large proportion of it restored to them, in the shape of works connected with the salt ponds, the cost of which is defrayed from the Crown Funds, such as the repair of roads and bridges, cleansing of reservoirs and water-courses, erection of bridges, sluice-gates, and wind-machines, together with numerous other works for the general benefit of the lessees of the Crown, while in the expenditure unconnected with the ponds the salt pond proprietors participate in the benefit of such with the rest of the community.

9. Unthinking persons, however, are led to believe, that the revenue of the colony is raised by taxation alone, and that therefore the total revenue, from whatever source derived, divided by the population, leaves as a quotient the average amount of what is contributed by each individual in the colony towards the maintenance of the government.

10. These ideas were formally enunciated in a memorial addressed to your Excellency, transmitted in my Despatch (Separate), No. 22. of 10th October 1857, signed by 85 persons, representing the intelligence of the communities of Grand Turk and Salt Cay, against Ordinance No. 6. of 1857, providing a retiring allowance (after 39 years' service) for Mr. Hamilton, provost marshal, police magistrate, post officer, and superintendent of the lighthouse, in this colony.

11. Among other reasons assigned in the above memorial against this ordinance (which subsequently received Her Majesty's disallowance), it was stated "that the whole expenditure of the colony is sustained by local taxation, which has already reached to about 3*l.* on every inhabitant;" whereas I shall show, subsequently, that it does not exceed 1*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.* per head.

12. There is no West India colony sufficiently small in point of population wherewith to institute a comparison with the Turks and Caicos Islands, the last census of which in 1851 places the population at 3,250 souls, or somewhat less than three fifths of the population of Montserrat in the same year.

13. In the report of President Baynes, accompanying the Montserrat Blue Book for 1850, I find the ordinary individual taxation of that colony placed at 6s. 9½d. On examining, however, the per-centage on the relative amounts of duties on goods imported into these two colonies, it will be found to be nearly the same, viz. from 11¼ to 13 per cent. on their declared value, the only highly taxed import here being the article of ardent spirits, which if left out of the calculation would give the lesser per-centage; thus showing that the necessaries and luxuries of life must be, as far as customs' duties are concerned (our sole mode of taxation in this colony), about as cheap in Turks Islands, where individual taxation is apparently more than three times as high, as they are in Montserrat, where taxation is apparently so low.

14. Wages of common labourers in this colony, compared with what appears to be the rate in Montserrat, are never less than four times and are frequently six and even nine times higher than in Montserrat, thus causing a large consumption of the luxuries as well as the necessaries of life, and proving, that while taxation falls with no greater weight on the labourer of Turks Islands than on those at Montserrat, although the former resides in what may comparatively be considered a highly taxed colony, the superior condition of the labourer here is apparent from the comparative value of imports consumed, the average value of imports from 1853 to 1855, both years inclusive, at Montserrat, being 9,060l. per annum, while at Turks Islands, with a population of two fifths less, the average value of imports, commencing from the separation from the Bahama government in 1849 to 1857, amounts to 31,202l. 1s. 11½d. per annum, deducting from which the amount of imports re-exported, leaves an average value of imports actually consumed within this colony of 27,016l. 3s. per annum.

15. In praying for a separation from the Bahama government, the inhabitants of Turks Islands must have been aware that the revenue required for the maintenance of a separate government (more especially on the expensive scale on which this has been framed) could bear no due proportion to the limited population; and when the petitioners in the before mentioned memorial, which was signed by some of the chief promoters of that separation, made the statement that taxation had already reached to about 3l. per head, thereby plainly implying that taxation had been increased since the separation, they ignore in an unscrupulous manner, the well known fact of the tariff having been reduced in 1849 nearly 50 per cent. under that which preceded it. In corroboration of this statement, it is only necessary to mention, that the declared value of imports in 1849 amounted to 24,854l., of which goods to the value of 5,149l. were re-exported, leaving the amount of imports entered for consumption in that year of the value of 19,705l., the import duties on which amounted to 4,752l., or about 24 per cent. on their declared value, while in 1850, under the new tariff, the declared value of imports amounted to 27,989l., of which goods to the value of 4,174l. were re-exported, leaving the amount of imports entered for consumption of the value of 23,815l., the import duties on which amounted to 2,946l., or about 11¾ per cent. on their declared value.

16. I would here incidentally, in illustration of the tariff question as regards this colony, beg to quote a paragraph from my speech at the opening of the Legislative Council in 1857, in which I have shown that the increased imports following the reduction of the tariff have been owing, not to the reduction but to the increased prosperity of the colony consequent on the separation. "The large and progressive increase in the value of imports since 1849 is a remarkable feature in the tabular statement, which is attributable to the increased prosperity of the colony consequent on the separation. This is obvious from the fact of the increased value of imports having been principally in dry goods, the ad valorem duties on which were increased by the tariff of 1849 from 5 to 7½ per cent. The receiver-general's published statements show that these ad valorem duties collected under the old tariff amounted in 1849 to 407l. 19s. 5d., in 1855 to 1,066l. 14s. 10d., and, taking the seven years from 1850 to 1856 inclusive, there is an average of 773l. per annum arising from duties on dry goods. These statements also show an increase in the amount of duties on brandy, rum, and gin, which were, as well as the ad valorem duties, increased by the tariff of 1849, these duties amounting in 1849 to 1,003l. 17s. 5d., while the subsequent seven years give an average of 1,113l. 17s. 1d. per annum."

17. Were it possible that the method adopted by the before-mentioned memorialists, of calculating the average individual taxation of this colony, could be admitted to be correct, it would be found to have amounted in 1856, the year previous to that in which the memorial was prepared, on the financial return of which it is to be presumed the calcula-

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tion was based, to 2 <i>l.</i> 17 <i>s.</i> 1½ <i>d.</i> per head, the revenue derived from customs duties in that year amounting to	-	-	-	-	-	£ 5,806	7	6
Revenue derived from the Crown Funds in 1856	-	-	-	-	-	3,482	6	7
Total	-	-	-	-	-	£ 9,288	14	1

which amount, taking the population at 3,250 souls according to the census of 1851, would give the above result.

18. On the same principle of calculation it would be found that in 1849, the first year of the separation, while the colony was still under the old Bahama tariff, the average individual taxation amounted to 3*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* per head, the revenue derived from customs' duties in that year amounting to

-	-	-	-	-	-	£ 7,202	10	2
Revenue derived from the Crown Funds in 1849	-	-	-	-	-	3,224	15	9
Total	-	-	-	-	-	£ 10,427	5	11

which amount, taking the population at 3,250 souls, will give the above result; thus showing, even by the fallacious mode of calculation adopted by these memorialists, a diminution of taxation in 1856 under that of 1849, of 17*s.* 4½*d.* per head.

19. In order to arrive at any result on this subject approximating to the truth, I would mention that the average annual sum collected as duties on imports into these islands from 1850 (commencing with the new tariff) to 1857, 8 years, both years inclusive, amounts to 3,752*l.* 14*s.* 5¾*d.* per annum, which, still retaining the population of the colony at 3,250 souls, would give an average individual taxation of 1*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.* per head, or, placing the population, as is more probably the case, at 3,500 souls, would give as a result 1*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.* as the average individual taxation in this colony, already mentioned at paragraph eleven of this report. With regard to the export duty of one farthing per bushel on salt, the manufacture of which is a monopoly, it cannot, I apprehend, be looked on as general taxation, more particularly as it is admitted, even by some of the salt rakers, that the export duty is paid by the purchaser.

Colonial Revenue and Expenditure. Imports and Exports.

20. The revenue from imports and exports and "other sources," such as light dues, fees of office, liquor licences, postages, contributions to widows' and orphans' fund, &c., for 1857, amounted to 5,952*l.* 10*s.*, which, though greater than that of 1856 by 146*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*, fell short of the estimated revenue by 360*l.* 9*s.* The expenditure of 1857, arising out of provision made for the civil list by the annual appropriation and other ordinances of the legislature, amounted to 6,030*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.*, which, although exceeding the revenue by 77*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.*, was under the estimated expenditure by 314*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.*, and was less than the actual expenditure of 1856 by the amount of 94*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.*

21. The total declared value of imports in 1857 amounted to 33,418*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.*, against 33,523*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* in 1856. The total value of exports amounted in 1857 to 29,274*l.* 9*s.* against 27,064*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.* in 1856.

22. In my report which accompanied the Blue Book for 1856 I adverted to the low condition to which (comparatively with that which preceded it) the existing tariff had been reduced, which as the principal means of revenue appeared to be unequal to the increasing exigencies of the colony. As the term of the present tariff, however, will expire in from three to four years from the present time, it might be inexpedient to attempt any revision of the same with a view to an increase on import duties until its expiration, during which period there is reason to believe that the resources of the colony will be on the increase, by the proposed settlement of the West Caicos, and the gradual development of Cockburn Harbour, East Caicos; while at the same time some of the prospective reductions of official salaries may have taken place contemplated by Ordinance No. 3. of 1856, which when in full operation will effect a saving to the colony of 596*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.* per annum. Meanwhile, as I have already adverted to in the fourth paragraph of this report, I have in my Despatch (Financial), No. 28. of 24th April 1858, transmitting the estimates for 1859, recommended, with the advice of the Executive Council, that an amount (500*l.*) in aid of the colonial revenue be contributed annually for a term of from three to five years from Her Majesty's Crown Funds of the colony. It is true that the Crown Funds contribute indirectly in various ways towards the maintenance of this government, as I have already had occasion to mention, and that in thus diverting them still further from their more legitimate application those public works of utility and necessity before referred to are thereby impeded, but when it is considered that, notwithstanding the great reduction of the old Bahama tariff, the inhabitants of this colony are, in consequence of their limited number, even now, compared with other small

West India colonies, somewhat heavily taxed, and considering, further, the great opposition which such a measure as that of raising the tariff would be likely to call forth from the representative members of council, your excellency will probably coincide with me in the opinion, that it is desirable to avoid as long as possible, under the circumstances, the difficult task of retracing steps too hastily taken in the first instance, more particularly when there are well-grounded hopes that by deferring the attempt the necessity for it may possibly be obviated altogether.

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TABLE showing the REVENUE raised and EXPENDITURE defrayed 'by Authority of the Legislative Council of the TURKS and CAICOS ISLANDS, from 1849 to 1857, both years inclusive, together with the Amounts paid on account of the public debt due to the Bahama Government.

YEAR.	Revenue.	EXPENDITURE.		
		Salaries, &c.	On account of Public Debt.	Total Expenditure.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1849 - -	8,441 3 2	4,791 19 2	2,410 11 0	7,202 10 2
1850 - -	5,999 8 3	4,538 11 2½	2,281 7 11	6,819 19 1½
1851 - -	5,925 18 2½	5,317 4 3	778 4 5½	6,095 8 8½
1852 - -	6,712 13 10½	5,258 6 4½	898 3 1	6,156 9 5½
1853 - -	5,897 13 9½	5,520 11 2½	954 12 6	6,475 3 8½
1854 - -	6,802 19 4	5,404 16 10½	91 18 4	5,496 15 2½
1855 - -	5,874 16 9	6,209 6 9¾	91 18 4	6,301 5 1¾
1856 - -	5,806 7 6	6,032 17 2	91 18 4	6,124 15 6
1857 - -	5,952 11 0	5,938 6 9	91 18 4	6,030 5 1

23. By the foregoing table it will be seen, first, that the revenue of 1857, though exceeding that of 1856, was under an average one; second, that the expenditure arising from the civil list provided for by ordinances of the Legislative Council has much increased since the first establishment of this government in 1849; and, third, that, although there was still a balance of 710*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.* at the close of 1857, the expenditure has exceeded the receipts during the last three years.

TABLE showing the DECLARED VALUE of IMPORTS and the VALUE of EXPORTS from 1849 to 1857.

YEAR.	Declared Value of Imports.	Value of Imports re-exported.	Actual Value of Salt exported.	Total Value of Exports.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1849 - -	24,854 13 0	5,148 14 7	34,245 2 11	39,393 17 6
1850 - -	27,989 9 7	4,174 2 11	26,757 18 7	30,932 1 6
1851 - -	25,124 11 6	2,353 6 7	17,245 10 0	19,598 16 7
1852 - -	29,467 14 2	2,790 17 3	22,035 4 1	24,826 1 4
1853 - -	32,478 15 10	6,426 12 7	24,132 19 0	30,559 11 7
1854 - -	34,263 7 8	3,442 3 7	51,375 16 3	54,817 19 10
1855 - -	39,698 15 8	5,317 16 11	22,964 10 8	28,282 7 7
1856 - -	33,523 7 6	4,174 2 7	22,890 0 6	27,064 3 1
1857 - -	33,418 2 10	3,845 13 9	25,440 9 7	29,286 3 4
	280,818 17 9	37,673 10 9	247,087 11 7	284,761 2 4

24. The above table shows the total declared value of imports during the nine years that this government has been in existence to have amounted to 280,818*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.* of which Great Britain furnished

- - - - -	£33,973 15 1
British colonies - - - - -	59,343 10 10
United States - - - - -	134,155 18 8
Other countries - - - - -	53,345 13 2
	<u>£280,818 17 9</u>

deducting from which the imports re-exported leaves 243,145*l.* 7*s.*, as the declared value of imports consumed during the above period within the colony.

25. The deficiency of imports in 1857, as compared with the previous year, has been considerable, although, in looking at the declared value, this is not so apparent as it has

actually proved, by a diminution in import duties of 429*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.* in comparison with 1856. This deficiency is to be accounted for by the want of that permanent employment of labour in 1855-6 which was enjoyed by the working class in 1857, together with the high price of provisions, flour having been sold as high as 16*g.* or 3*l.* 15*s.* a barrel, Indian corn at 2*g.* or 8*s.* 4*d.* a bushel, and other articles of food at the same exorbitant rate, during a large portion of 1857. The increased importations in the first quarter of 1858 already show the effect of the constant employment of labourers in 1857, as well as that of the great fall in the price of provisions, flour being now to be purchased at 7*g.* or 1*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.* per barrel, and other articles of food in proportion.

26. The above table also shows the total value of exports from these islands during the last nine years to have amounted to 284,761*l.*, 2*s.* 4*d.* of which the sum of 247,087*l.* 11*s.* 7*d.* has been received by the salt pond proprietors, who during the same period have paid rents to the amount of 30,224*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.*, leaving to the Crown lessees a return arising from Her Majesty's salt ponds farmed out to them of 216,863*l.*, 6*s.* 9*d.*, or upwards of 24,000*l.* per annum in advance of their annual rents.

27. The amount received by the salt pond proprietors from the sale of salt has been obtained, in the proportions herein-after mentioned, from the following countries to which it has been exported, viz. :—

From British colonies	-	-	-	£19,975	8	5
From the United States	-	-	-	222,869	4	6
From other countries	-	-	-	4,242	18	8
				<hr/>		
				£247,087	11	7

28. The export duty on salt of one farthing per bushel, and the light dues (3*d.* per ton), have been the means, owing to the large salt crop, and the consequent increase of shipping, in 1857, over 1856, of saving 1857 from being a bad revenue year, which from the deficiency of imports it must otherwise have proved.

29. The salt season of 1857 has been the most productive on record. Up to the close of the year 1,269,304 bushels of salt had been exported, while from 3 to 400,000 bushels remained in the colony, of which, up to the close of the first quarter of 1858, there have been exported 267,968 bushels.

30. The price of salt here, however, during 1857, has never ruled so low (save in 1852) since the first formation of this government, having only averaged 9½ cents (or 4¾*d.* sterling) per bushel. In 1855 the price averaged 27½ cents (or 1*s.* 1¾*d.*) per bushel, and taking the price from 1849 to 1857, both years inclusive, it has averaged during that period 15½ cents (or 7¾*d.* sterling) per bushel.

31. It is difficult to state with accuracy the cost of raking and shipping a bushel of salt, some of the salt pond proprietors placing it at 4 cents and others at 6 cents. Taking the medium, 5 cents (or 2½*d.* sterling), that amount may possibly approximate to the truth. To this must be added the proportionate amount of rent paid by each proprietor, to ascertain which there can be no general rule, from the plan adopted originally in leasing the ponds, by which some of the best were leased much too low and some of the worst rather too high in proportion. One cent (or one halfpenny sterling) per bushel will, however, cover all rentcharges in any case, though in some it may be less, which, with the farthing export duty, would give an outlay of 6½ cents (or 3¼*d.* sterling) before the salt raker can count his profit. At the average price obtained in 1857 (9½ cents or 4¾*d.* sterling) it is clear, therefore, that the salt rakers' profits must have been small, notwithstanding the large quantity raked.

32. Since making the above calculation, I have received the following statement from Mr. Horatio Stubbs, one of the proprietors of Hawes' Pond, a salina on this cay only brought of late years into cultivation. "The salt shipped from Hawes' Pond in 1857 cost on board five cents (2½*d.* sterling) per bushel, including rental and all other charges, and ten per cent. on cost of carts and mules for wear and tear. From inquiry, I believe it to be about the cheapest, with small exception, if any. Six cents (3*d.* sterling) I presume would be nearer the average."

33. This calculation, coming from a salt raker, one of the most intelligent in the colony, and which shows that I have rather overstated the cost and charge of a bushel of salt on board, is a very important one, if regarded with a view to fixing future rentals of cultivated salt ponds within these islands.

34. The fluctuating crops and prices of salt are disadvantageous to the labouring population, a short crop at high prices being better for the proprietor, while a large crop, although at low prices, benefits the labourer and the revenue. The high price of salt in 1855, which caused unusually large quantities of Mediterranean salt to be imported into

the United States, has been one means of the present downfall in price; whereas if salt were procurable here the whole year round at about $12\frac{1}{2}$ cents (or $6\frac{1}{4}$ sterling) per bushel, a most remuneratory price, these importations would not be so great. This may gradually become the case as the present waste salinas in the East and West Caicos are brought more extensively into cultivation.

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TABLES showing the TONNAGE INWARDS and OUTWARDS from 1849 to 1857.

	YEAR.	Tonnage inwards.	Tonnage outwards.
	1849 - - -	41,712	41,712
	1850 - - -	41,269	41,279
	1851 - - -	31,066	30,846
	1852 - - -	40,106	38,930
	1853 - - -	33,552	31,594
	1854 - - -	39,254	36,676
	1855 - - -	20,814	19,834
	1856 - - -	29,086	28,940
	1857 - - -	45,822	44,747

35. Of the above tonnage, I am only enabled to give the nationality of the shipping composing it for the last three years, which is as follows:—

ENTERED.								
YEAR.				British.	United States.	Other Places.	TOTAL.	
1855	-	-	-	10,202	10,283	329	20,814	
1856	-	-	-	12,010	16,871	205	29,086	
1857	-	-	-	16,234	29,456	132	45,822	
CLEARED.								
1855	-	-	-	9,734	9,695	405	19,834	
1856	-	-	-	12,679	15,999	262	28,940	
1857	-	-	-	19,424	25,118	205	44,747	

Revenue from the Salt Pond Rents and Sale of Crown Lands composing Her Majesty's Crown Funds.

36. The salt pond rents and such other receipts as appertain to the Crown are collected and disbursed by an officer (the Crown commissioner) specially appointed by Her Majesty's Government for that purpose, and who also acts as Crown surveyor and superintendent of all public works, whether connected with the salt pond or otherwise.

37. The total fixed expenditure from the Crown Funds in 1857 amounted to 1,661*l.* 7*s.* 10*½d.* consisting of salaries and allowances - £1,025 9 11
 Parochial expenses - - - 370 17 11*½*
 Aid to government schools - - - 150 0 0
 Hired buildings - - - 115 0 0

£1,661 7 10*½*

38. The principal salaries and allowances defrayed from the Crown Funds are those of the Crown commissioner, and his assistant, the stipendiary justice and assistant stipendiary justice at the Caicos, together with some small allowances which cease in 1858, the total amount, however, remaining about the same, owing to the recent appointment of an auditor of public accounts.

39. The parochial expenses 370*l.* 17*s.* 11*½d.* include, the maintenance of the poor's house, the cost of which in 1857 amounted to 356*l.* 0*s.* 11*½d.*; the balance of parochial expenses, 14*l.* 17*s.* 0*½d.*, being for matters connected with the vestry.

40. The amount paid in aid of government schools in 1857 (150*l.*) has been now increased to 200*l.*, giving a total expenditure from the Crown Funds and colonial revenue towards public education of 650*l.* per annum.

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41. The amount placed in the Blue Book for rents of public buildings defrayed from the Crown Funds (115*l.*) consists of rent of barracks - £85 0 0
 Ditto of Crown commissioner's office - - 20 0 0
 Four months' rental of a government house in 1857 - - - - - 10 0 0

£115 0 0

The rent of the poor's house and hospital, (45*l.*) also defrayed from the Crown Funds, is included in the parochial expenses, and will cease this month.

42. In consequence of the large annual amounts expended on the salt ponds, as well as in the fixed expenditure above mentioned, there has hitherto been little to show in the shape of buildings, with the exception of the lighthouse, towards the erection of which one moiety of the expense was contributed from the Crown Funds of the colony, the other being defrayed from Her Majesty's Treasury.

43. Public buildings of various descriptions have long been contemplated, but owing to the expensive scale on which it has hitherto been proposed to erect them but little has yet been accomplished.

44. Since my arrival in 1854, however, there have been the following public works carried out, independent of the numerous ones connected with the salt ponds, viz. :—

First. The repair of Mathew Tank, one of the most useful and necessary works that could possibly be undertaken in a colony where the scarcity of water is painfully apparent among the poorer class. This tank, originally commenced previous to the separation from the Bahamas, had fallen into a state of complete disrepair, until it was renewed in 1854, and rendered capable of containing upwards of 97,000 gallons of rain water, which, coming as it does from an extensive rocky "catch," is of the purest and best description. The total cost of its construction, inclusive of repairs, has amounted to nearly 1,000*l.* The pamphlet lately forwarded by your excellency on the production of fresh water from sea water by Dr. Normandy, and which has been already published here for general information, may possibly lead to a new era, as regards the supply of fresh water in a colony where there is none fit for human use save what falls from the clouds.

Second. The erection of a comfortable government house at Waterloo, together with the purchase of that estate, formerly belonging to Mr. Misich, senior member of council, but now the property of the colony.

Third. The excavation from the solid rock of a powder magazine, containing at present 100,000 lbs. of gunpowder and 43 kegs of ball cartridge. It is proposed to make this magazine a depôt for all gunpowder imported into the colony, whether private or public property.

Fourth. The establishment of a poor's house at a short distance from the town of Grand Turk, which is now completed, and where the paupers of the colony will be removed during the present month.

45. In 1856 it was found to be absolutely necessary to provide a magazine for the safe storage of gunpowder, and a half-finished building, about one mile to the north of the town of Grand Turk, was purchased for the purpose, by the advice of the Executive Council.

46. In the course of its construction for that purpose, it was found that it could be more beneficially applied to the purposes of a poor's house and hospital, which alteration, sanctioned also by the council, was adopted, and it now forms one of the best of the public buildings in the colony, besides causing a saving in rent of 45*l.* per annum.

47. In my speech at the opening of the present legislative session I stated to the council, on the subject of public works, as follows: "There is but little at present to communicate on the subject of public works, but as I have frequently adverted to the expensive mode of hiring private houses for government purposes, I may mention, that should my proposition be carried into effect for the purchase of the present building used for public offices, which I have reason to believe has already received the sanction of Her Majesty's Government, and if so will be defrayed from the Crown Funds of the colony, the rents of Government buildings will shortly stand at 166*l.* 15*s.* in place of 452*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.*, as they stood in January 1855, thus effecting since then a saving to the colony of 285*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* per annum."

48. Although no direct sanction has been received to my proposition, contained in the despatch quoted in the margin, for the purchase of the building above mentioned, I made the statement to the council on the ground that the Crown Fund estimates for 1858 had been sanctioned, wherein provision is made for a payment on account towards the purchase in question. I therefore considered that no objection would be made on the

part of Her Majesty's Government, although I have deferred concluding the arrangement until the proposition is formally approved.

49. I have omitted to enumerate, among other public works, that during 1857 extensive repairs have been made to the chapel of ease at Salt Cay, by which thirty-six additional seats have been added to the previous accommodation, the necessity for which had been pointed out by the resident minister there.

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Ecclesiastical.

50. In the return of ecclesiastical establishments supported by this colony, it will be seen that the parish of St. George, comprising the Caicos Islands, has not the benefit of any minister, resident or otherwise, of the established church; that 40*l.* per annum had been assigned for two lay readers (20*l.* to each), but that no one had yet been appointed which may be accounted for by the smallness of the sum provided.

51. There is no part of this colony so much in want of spiritual instruction as the Caicos settlements, the population of which are fast verging into a state of semi-barbarism, a fact which has been lately brought to my notice by Mr. St. George Tucker, the assistant stipendiary justice residing at Cockburn Harbour, East Caicos, who describes the incestuous immorality practised throughout these settlements, to be hardly credible in a so-called Christian community. Cockburn Harbour forms, I believe, an exception to this lamentable state of affairs.

52. The contribution from the revenue of this colony towards the ecclesiastical establishment of the church of England maintained here already amounting to 67*3l.* 18*s.* 4*d.* per annum (exclusive of grants to the dissenters), but little more can well be expected from it, but were the Church Missionary Aid Society made acquainted with the field which is open to them at the Caicos they would probably be induced to render this colony such assistance as might be the means of rescuing the Caicos from their present state of spiritual destitution.

53. In the event of such a proposition being entertained, I would recommend the appointment of a church missionary to the Caicos Islands, who might be placed at Cockburn Harbour as his head quarters, from whence he would be in a position to make periodical visits to the other settlements.

Legislation.

54. Nine ordinances were passed during the legislative session of 1857, the principal one of importance to this community being Ordinance No. 4. of 1857, "to restrict the contributions to the widows' and orphans' fund to the present public officers of the colony," on which subject, and its operation, I made a full report in my speech at the commencement of the present session, transmitted in my Despatch to your Excellency (Legislative), No. 30. of 26th April 1858.

Education.

55. The returns in connexion with public education show a total of 428 scholars at the government schools during the year 1857. On this subject I transmit a report* from the head master at Grand Turk, who is also inspector of government schools generally, throughout the colony.

* Not received.

56. Mr. Ockenden states, in his report, dated Grand Turk, 12th June 1858, that the year 1856 shows a falling-off of 21 scholars, in comparison with 1855, attributable to the great demand for labour during nearly the whole of the former year, and which he considers, in as far as the more advanced scholars are concerned, a circumstance not to be regretted, inasmuch as they have been contributing to their own support and that of their parents. When it is remembered that most of the scholars in our public schools are destined to become salt-pond labourers, Mr. Ockenden's view will probably be concurred in; while the fact that this small decrease is attributed to the true cause may be gathered from the statement at the close of the fifth paragraph of his report, viz., that the numbers and attendance at the schools had steadily increased since the busy season last year.

57. In the fourth paragraph of his report Mr. Ockenden refers to the great want of suitable schoolhouses; a subject of regret to myself, which at present I see no means of remedying.

58. Mr. Ockenden, in his sixth paragraph, adverts to my personal observation at the recent public examinations of the several schools here and at Salt Cay, and the favourable allusion to the head school at this cay made in my speech at the opening of the present

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session of the Legislative Council, which I take the liberty to quote as follows:—"On the subject of public education I laid before you last year some interesting statistics. I now have the pleasure to state that the proposed establishment of a public school at the rising settlement of Cockburn Harbour, East Caicos, has received the sanction of Her Majesty's Government, and I hope in the next educational returns to show that it is likely to be not among the least of our colonial schools. The late public examinations here must have been gratifying to all who witnessed them; and I am of opinion, in which I am confident the honourable members who witnessed it will coincide, that the examination of the first and second classes of the head school at Grand Turk would, in the intelligence displayed by the scholars, have compared favourably with any similar school in the West Indies, and that the school in question is fortunate in possessing as its head master Mr. Ockenden, inspector of government schools, ably assisted as he is at present by a gentleman whose educational talents are conspicuous. I cannot take a better or more public opportunity than the present of calling the attention of parents to the grave responsibility which those incur who neglect to take advantage of the priceless boon of a good education so freely proffered to them by this government, and would earnestly point out to them that if they wish their children to bless their memory they will not fail to accept it for them while there is yet time."

59. With regard to the government school at Lorimers, Caicos, where Mr. Ockenden mentions that in July last year he found 123 scholars of both sexes on the register, on whose attainments he could not report favourably, I have reason to believe that the next report will show an improvement both in the numbers and proficiency of the scholars.

60. The school at Kew, Caicos, which Mr. Ockenden reports on in paragraphs eight and nine, with regard to the master of which I lately made some remarks in my Despatch (Separate), No. 32. of the 18th May 1858, I have only to state, in reference to it, that the board of education have never considered that they exercised any supervision whatever over it, or were in any way answerable for its shortcomings, and that the amount of 10*l.* per annum (now withdrawn) was given purely as a gratuity to encourage education at a place where no government school existed.

61. Mr. Ockenden reports favourably, in his tenth paragraph, on the new government school lately established at Cockburn Harbour, East Caicos, where the numbers of scholars have already increased to 47, with an average daily attendance of 34.

62. On the subject of fees (paragraph eleven), Mr. Ockenden is aware of my opinion, in which I am supported by the members of the board of education, that the small fee of 1½*d.* sterling per week should be rigidly enforced. The due collection of these fees is of importance to the maintenance of these schools. The poorest cannot consider them high (the fees having been reduced from sixpence to the present amount), while the enforcement of their payment causes education to be more appreciated. Mr. Ockenden confirms the necessity for this compulsory payment, when he states that the total grant, now amounting to 650*l.* per annum, placed at the disposition of the board of education, does not suffice to meet the present expenses incurred in the cause of public education within this colony. It will be seen by the returns that the fees collected during 1857 amounted to 50*l.* 2*s.* 4½*d.*, an important item, increasing the annual receipts to 700*l.*, which, although a large sum to expend in proportion to the revenue of the colony, is by no means as large as could be desired.

I have, &c.

W. R. INGLIS, President.

Enclosure 2. in No. 10.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor DARLING to President W. R. INGLIS.

(No. 69.)

SIR,

King's House, Jamaica, July 9, 1858.

I HAVE perused with gratification your interesting report accompanying the Blue Book of the presidency for the year 1857.

2. I shall not fail to request the attention of Her Majesty's Government to your suggestion that the Church Missionary Aid Society might be induced to render assistance in the extension of spiritual care to the inhabitants.

3. With reference to the view which you take of the difficulty of meeting my instruction, that whatever portion of the Crown Funds is appropriated to the general service of the colony should be considered as "incidental revenue," and entered accord-

Enclosure 2
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ingly in the return of "net revenue and expenditure," while charges which may be met by such contribution from the Crown Funds should be included in the expenditure side of that return, I beg to acquaint you that the term "incidental revenue" was used in error; and my intention must have been to direct that the contribution in question should be entered as "receipt in aid" of the general revenue.

4. The only expenditure properly chargeable against the Crown Funds as a local or special revenue is, I conceive, that incident to the care and improvement of the property from which those funds arise, and to the collection of the funds themselves.

5. By the course pursued in compiling the "Blue Book" the net amount of the Crown Funds as thus obtained is not shown, nor does the expenditure for the year incurred under the several heads in the service of the colony appear in its proper place.

6. I have to request that you will furnish me with a statement of the expenditure chargeable against the Crown Funds upon the principle just stated.

7. I may observe that in the cases of colonies which receive assistance from the Imperial Treasury, the amount of the contribution is recorded as a receipt in aid. I must also remark, that the fact that the colonial revenue is collected and disbursed by the receiver-general, and the Crown Funds by another officer, does not prevent the preparation of a consolidated return of the public revenue and expenditure, which is the document required by the Blue Book, and which perhaps the auditor would be the proper officer to prepare, from statements to be furnished by the two receiving and disbursing officers, subject to that responsibility for its accuracy on the part of the colonial secretary which the regulations of the service impose upon that functionary.

I have, &c.

His Honour W. R. Inglis,
President.

(Signed) C. H. DARLING.

TRINIDAD.

TRINIDAD.

No. 11.

No. 11.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor KEATE to the Right Hon.
Sir E. B. LYTTON, Bart.

(No. 131.)

Trinidad, September 26, 1858.

(Received, November 1, 1858.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the Blue Book for Trinidad for 1857, and to report upon the condition and prospects of the Colony. In so doing, I propose to compare the period under review with the two preceeding years, having, from my recent arrival in the Colony, been unable, when forwarding the Blue Book for 1856, to accompany it with any Report.

2. The establishments of the Island are principally supported by the receipts from customs duties levied on imports, with their attendant tonnage, wharfage, and warehouse dues. The costs of its public works also are mainly defrayed from these sources. There are others which contribute, but they are comparatively unimportant. They consist of the proceeds of sales of Crown lands, of licences for the sale of spirits, of legacy duty, fees of office, fees and fines of court, reimbursement of advances, with interest, and other smaller items. To these have to be added an excise duty on rum manufactured and consumed within the Colony, and the duty payable on every contract of labour entered into with immigrants introduced at the public expense, to defray which they are specially applicable.

3. The whole revenue from all these sources combined amounted in 1855 to 103,170*l.*; in 1856, inclusive of an exceptional tax on exports, to 127,181*l.*; in 1857, without such export tax, to 136,674*l.* The expenditure during the same three years was as follows :

					£
In 1855	-	-	-	-	953,331
In 1856	-	-	-	-	127,009
In 1857	-	-	-	-	107,636

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The balance to the credit of the Colony stood at the close of 1855 at 23,971*l.*, at that of 1856 at 22,936*l.*, and at that of 1857 at 48,651*l.*, out of which there was a current liability on deposit account averaging 17,488*l.*

4. The local expenditure of the Island is met by local taxation; in the two towns of Port of Spain and San Fernando by borough rates on houses and lands within the circuits of the towns, under the control of elected municipal bodies; in the rural districts by ward rates; also on houses and lands, under the management of wardens appointed by the Executive, and boards of auditors elected by the ratepayers. The funds of the borough councils are augmented by market and other fees, and those of the wards by fees on licences for the retail of spirits. They provide for the maintenance of streets, roads, and bridges, for the primary education of the people, for the registration of births and deaths, for the relief and medical care of the poor, for a portion of the general police expenditure, for the salaries of the officers employed in carrying out these objects, and for other local purposes. In Port of Spain there is also a water rate, which is levied by the general Government under the provisions of a special Ordinance, and applied to the repayment of the original outlay upon the construction of the waterworks, and to their extension and repair.

5. The receipts of the borough council of Port of Spain reached—

	£
In 1855 - - -	6,261
„ 1856 - - -	6,805
„ 1857 - - -	6,981

Its expenditure during the same period was—

	£
In 1855 - - -	8,230
„ 1856 - - -	7,614
„ 1857 - - -	7,047

leaving an adverse balance in the three years of 2,844*l.*

The receipts of the borough council of San Fernando were—

	£
In 1855 - - -	2,351
„ 1856 - - -	2,062
„ 1857 - - -	2,192

Its outlay was—

	£
In 1855 - - -	2,651
„ 1856 - - -	2,104
„ 1857 - - -	2,151

leaving an excess of expenditure in the three years of 301*l.*

The revenue and expenditure of the wards during the same period were as follows:—

Revenue:

	£
In 1855 - - -	21,236
„ 1856 - - -	28,739
„ 1857 - - -	24,189

Expenditure:

	£
In 1855 - - -	20,417
„ 1856 - - -	24,786
„ 1857 - - -	24,927

showing a balance in favour of revenue in the three years of 4,034*l.*

The water-rate in Port of Spain produced—

	£
In 1855 - - -	1,710
„ 1856 - - -	1,816
„ 1857 - - -	1,898

The aggregate of receipts from all sources, and applicable to all purposes of general and local government, amounted, therefore—

	£
In 1855 to	134,728
„ 1856 to	166,603
„ 1857 to	171,934

or, taking the average of the three years, to 157,755*l*. Deducting from this amount a sum of 9,107*l*. as the aggregate of reimbursements of advances during the same space of time, a total of 148,548*l*. is left as the produce of what may be fairly called taxation, either of a direct or indirect nature.

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6. The population of Trinidad was returned by the last Census, taken in July 1851, at 68,600. Its increase since that time by births, as deducible from the records in the Registrar General's Office, by immigration from China, India, and the Cape de Verde Islands, as shown in the returns of the Agent General of Immigrants, and by the influx of strangers from the neighbouring colonies, so far as can be judged from the entries in the books of the Harbour Master, may be safely said to have raised it to 80,000. By dividing the aggregate of revenue arrived at in the last paragraph by the present estimated amount of population, a result is given showing an average taxation on the inhabitants of Trinidad of 1*l*. 15*s*. 2*d*. per head per annum.

7. Continuing to compare the period to which the Blue Book refers with the two preceding years, I proceed to point out the progressive increase that has taken place in the value of the imports and exports of the Colony. The former were returned—

		£
In 1855	at	554,534
„ 1856	at	666,474
„ 1857	at	800,820

The latter—

		£
In 1855	at	387,999
„ 1856	at	546,296
„ 1857	at	1,013,414

the extraordinary rise in the latter year being ascribable to improved prices in a far greater degree than to augmented exportation.

8. That in an island of more than 2,012 square miles of surface the industry of a population so small in comparison with its extent and so fluctuating in some of its elements should suffice for the production of exportable commodities valued at so high a figure is attributable in great measure to the steadiness with which certain principles have been adhered to in its legislation, and it is matter of congratulation that its institutions are such as to admit of this stability. To concentrate population round certain centres of civilization, and to check, so far as moral means of compulsion can do so, its spread into distant and unsettled districts, have been the objects aimed at. This has been sought partly by regulations affecting the sale of Crown lands, partly by the subjection of all lands, whether cultivated or not, to ward rates, and thus connecting inseparably the responsibilities of property with its enjoyment, and partly by territorial and administrative arrangements having for their object the care, instruction, and well-being generally of the people, and their inter-communication with each other.

9. This concentration, however, is as a matter of course comparative, and not absolute. Many causes, irrespective of the characteristic tendency of the peasantry to retirement and isolation, conduce to extend the circle which these measures are designed to limit. The very cultivation of cocoa, indeed, holding, as it does, so important a place among the staples of the island, may be said to operate in this direction, by peopling such of the secluded valleys among the mountains as are not too inaccessible or too distant from the available markets for their produce; and by the abandonment of estates cultivated in canes during slavery in the south-eastern portion of the island, and their consequent sale in small lots, a scattered population has been kept up along that remote coast. It is, however, a district peculiarly suited to the growth of the cocoa-nut palm, the planting of which is now being greatly extended, so that even this unpromising industrial element is gradually being utilized. Two well intended measures of Government at an earlier period in the history of the Colony have, however, hitherto had the effect of encouraging rather than of counteracting the spread of population towards uncultivated districts. I allude to the location of disbanded military pensioners at Manzanilla, further south, along the same coast, and the settlement in the Naparimas of the American negroes compromised in the last war with the United States. In each case grants of land were allotted to the settlers larger than they could themselves work, and far beyond the limits to which the cultivation of the staples had at that time extended. Settlers, therefore, have been attracted towards them, as squatters on their small holdings, while they, and especially the Americans, have taken the place of the Indian wandering tribes, now almost

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extinct in the island, as hunters of the game with which the vast forests in the centre of it abound. Even among them, however, I can discern some signs of improvements. The pensioners are beginning to feel the irksomeness of their isolation, and to express a wish for the establishment of schools for their children, and for more easy communication with the capital; wants which I hope to be enabled to some extent to meet. Cane cultivation, moreover, is striding onwards, and gradually approaching and threatening in some places to envelop the American settlements. Their position, therefore, will gradually become less exceptional, and the habits of the settlers be influenced and moulded by contact with a civilization to which they have hitherto been comparatively strangers.

10. But it is to the continuous though expensive and by no means sufficient stream of immigration which has flowed into the island during the years under review that it is mainly indebted for the progress it has achieved. In addition to his usual Annual Report, a copy of which I transmitted in my Despatch, No. 19. of the 11th February last, the Agent General of Immigrants has taken the occasion of the close of a full period of five years' industrial residence to draw up some tabular statements, and to offer some remarks upon them, with a view to showing, upon more complete data than he had previously at his command, in what manner the inseparable interests of the workman and the employer have been promoted by this particular importation of foreign labour. I append a copy of his remarks and tables.* Perhaps in no sugar-growing colony, unless it is Mauritius, has the introduction of labour from abroad become so completely a part of the ordinary business of its local Government as in Trinidad. It is an island so favoured by nature in regard to its situation, its soil and its climate, that but one element of wealth remains to be developed in it by artificial means, namely, the possession of a population proportionate to its cultivable extent. So attractive a field of employment does it offer that it profits by a considerable voluntary immigration from the neighbouring colonies, nor are the exertions of individuals wanting to obtain reinforcements from more distant places which from time to time may be open to them; but the supply from the first of these sources is very uncertain, and that from the latter very partial, comparatively few proprietors being in a condition to avail themselves of it, even by combinations among themselves. Government agency, therefore, is looked to as the medium by which the artificial increase of the population can best be fostered; and indeed to restrict by legislative enactments and administrative arrangements the native races within an area compatible with the improvement of their social condition, and gradually, though more quickly than natural means could suffice to effect, to fill up that area, and then extend its limits, would seem to be in fact but different modes of carrying out the same line of policy.

11. A collateral result of this policy has been, to give, at a comparatively early period in the history of the colony, a parochial rather than a missionary character to its clerical organization. The island is an archdeaconry in the diocese of Barbados, and is divided for ecclesiastical purposes, in connection with the national church, into sixteen parishes, forming six rectories and nine island curacies, with assistant curacies attached to each rectory. Of these six rectories, five Island curacies and three assistant curacies are provided with clergy and stipends. The archbishop of a large Roman Catholic diocese, including several West Indian islands, British and foreign, resides in Trinidad, and enjoys a salary from its treasury. He is assisted in this part of his diocese by a vicar-general. It is divided into twenty cures and seven assistant curacies, all of which are supplied with clergy and stipends. In proportion as the inhabited area widens a call necessarily arises for an increase in the number of the clergy of both denominations. The more scattered population, especially in the cocoa-growing districts, being mainly of foreign descent, the Roman Catholic establishment has spread over a more extended range than that of the Church of England, but at this moment there is great need of a reinforcement to the ranks of the latter.

12. However unavoidable, there can be no doubt that the existence of a double ecclesiastical establishment must tend rather to keep up distinctions, other than those of a purely religious character, which it is highly desirable to eradicate, distinctions that is of race, language, and manners. The educational system of the Colony is calculated to assist in counteracting this tendency. It is no part of the business of the civil government to inculcate unity of religious belief, but it is decidedly incumbent upon it to endeavour to prevent the absence of such unity producing social discord. While then

*Note.—This Report of the Agent General of Immigrants will be found printed in House of Commons Paper, No. 31, of Session 1859, page 354. (West India Immigration.)

the training of the young in all doctrinal points is left to be conducted exclusively and separately by the ministers of the communities to which they severally belong, ample time being set apart for this most essential object, their instruction in secular subjects is carried on in common in primary schools open to all, and through the medium of the English language only. Masters are provided for these schools, which number at present, inclusively of those maintained by the borough council of Port of Spain and San Fernando, 28, with an average attendance of 1,227 pupils, by a normal training school established in the former town, and which now has on its books the names of 126 pupils, of whom 13 are in the training department. There has also existed in the same town since 1856 an institution admirably organized and conducted for the education of females and the training of female teachers; 130 names are now upon its books, of which 5 are those of pupil teachers. It is already prepared to provide mistresses for infant schools; the establishment and maintenance of such, in addition to primary schools in the two towns, is intrusted by Ordinance to their borough councils; but I regret to say that it is only quite lately that either of these two bodies has taken any steps for discharging this portion of its duties. I am now given to understand that there is every likelihood of one such school being opened in Port of Spain in a short time. I can conceive no measure which would be more conducive to the gradual obliteration of the stigma now resting upon these two towns of possessing a larger proportion of idlers to their whole population than probably any two others in the world, or which would redound more to the credit, and exhibit more clearly the foresight of their municipal authorities, than a conscientious carrying out on their parts of the object the Legislature had in view when imposing this duty upon them. Fortunately other bodies have not been so remiss; and there exist in the towns and throughout the island, irrespective of Government schools, some 26 others, supported in various ways by voluntary contributions, the greater number of which are infant schools.

13. I was in great hopes of being able to announce in this Report the opening of the "Queen's Collegiate School" in Port of Spain, preparations for establishing which have long been made, for the purpose of providing on the spot for the children of parents in the upper ranks of society an education suited to them, and upon the same really catholic principle of combination instead of separation which characterizes the system adopted in regard to the general population. It has taken longer, however, than I anticipated to procure the services of a competent head master, before whose arrival no commencement can be made. I trust that the year will not elapse before the establishment is in full career.

14. Grave doubts are entertained in many quarters of the working of the Ordinance already referred to, "For the Regulation of Municipal Corporations in the Island," No. 10. of 1853, and certainly the cause of education has not been promoted under it to the extent and in the manner it was intended to be. Petitions upon the subject have been presented to the Council of Government, not indeed referring especially to this point, but aiming at a change in the system which may ensure its operating more beneficially in every respect. The clause of the Ordinance particularly attacked is that which gives salaries out of the borough funds to the mayors of the two corporations, and it is contended that the effect of this provision has been, on the one hand, to deter the persons best fitted by character and position for seats at the boards from becoming candidates for them, by its giving to pecuniary considerations a predominating influence on the results of elections, and on the other hand practically to throw upon the mayors the whole of the duties which ought to be discharged by the councils, upon the ground of their being paid for the work, while the other members of them are not. Municipal institutions in the unrestricted form given to them by the Ordinance are in fact on their trial, and any expedient is worth adopting which may seem likely to help them to a successful issue. It is certainly essential to this that they should be worked out by the best hands; but it is incontestible, whatever the cause may be, that up to the present time the modified form in which the municipal principle is embodied in the ward system of the Island has been found in its practical results to suit its circumstances better.

15. The boards of auditors in the country districts and the borough councils of the two towns are constituted by another Ordinance Boards of health for these respective localities, and the duty of framing rules for their guidance is devolved upon a Central General Board. The first fruits of this organization has been the devising of a scheme for the underground drainage of Port of Spain, which will very soon be in course of execution. When finished, and when the sanitary regulations are in force, which cannot be brought into operation till it is so, the efforts of its municipal authorities to keep the

TRINIDAD. town in a state of cleanliness and salubrity will be infinitely facilitated. Other works having sanitary objects in view have been undertaken by the general Government. A public washing-house has been erected, and is in full work, and the rivers from which the town is supplied with water are consequently uncontaminated by filth, and a public bath-house is very nearly completed. There is every reason to think that in a short time Port of Spain will be, to say the least, as healthy a town as any in the West Indies.

Enclosure.

16. The paucity of labour, and especially of skilled labour, which is available for public works, has retarded the opening of two establishments which have been in progress of construction during the year under review. It is probable, however, that before this Report leaves the Island they will both have been put to their destined use. I mean the new Colonial Hospital and the Lunatic Asylum. There are at present sixty-seven patients under treatment in the hired building still used as a general hospital, and forty in the portion of the Royal Gaol set apart for lunatics. It is fortunate that a decrease in the aggregate number of persons confined in the gaol, consequent upon the removal of a portion of them to the convict depôt at the Irois Forest, and the opening of a district prison at San Fernando, as well as to the general diminution of crime, which there is no doubt the establishment of the depôt has contributed to bring about, has rendered the inconvenience long felt of keeping the lunatics in the same building with the debtors and other prisoners less intolerable than it otherwise would have been. I append the Annual Report of the Keeper of the Royal Gaol. The opening of the two establishments referred to will, I hope, be followed up at no long distance by that of the new Colonial Hospital at San Fernando, in the erection of which great progress has been made during the present year, and which I am the more desirous of completing, as the dilapidated state of the existing hospital renders it scarcely safe for the reception of patients.

17. Two other important works undertaken by the Government were finished before the close of last year. The laying down of a main sewer to carry off to the sea the refuse of the new hospital, the wash-house, and the Royal Gaol, and the substitution of an enlarged reservoir for the small one by which the waters of the St. Ann's River were previously made available for the supply of Port of Spain. The success of the former of these experiments gives every promise for that of the general drainage of the town; but such is the demand, and so great the consumption, not to say waste of it, that it begins to be apparent that ere long an additional main pipe from the reservoir at Maraval will be required.

18. The works remaining to be executed, in addition to the underground drainage of the town already referred to, are the re-erection of the Governor's residence at St. Ann's, for which plans and estimates have been prepared, and materials are being collected, and the advancement further into the sea of the line of wharves, which for a considerable time have been gradually becoming useless from the filling up of the sea approaches. This subject, in connexion with that of the extension of the jetty, appeared to me to present so many difficulties that I issued a commission of inquiry into it, and I expect shortly to be furnished with their report. A great desire has also been manifested that the Government should erect a patent slip for facilitating the repairs of vessels in the Gulf; and though this is perhaps rather a speculation which should be undertaken by private parties or a company, yet it is a project which may well be considered as part of the main question of the improvement of the harbour.

19. It has been customary for the Government, in addition to such public works as it takes into its own hands, to afford assistance in the shape either of advances or subsidies to the wards in their larger and more expensive operations. On this principle, advances are now being made for the construction of three bridges along the Eastern Road, and in 1856 a sum was appropriated in aid of the erection of a bridge over the Caroni River at a distance of about nine miles from its mouth, which has been finished since the beginning of the present year. I look upon this as a most important fact in respect to the road system, or rather systems, of the Island. I say systems, because the River Caroni and the Great Savannah through which it runs in its lower course have hitherto operated as an intervening barrier between the roads branching off from Port of Spain to the north of them and San Fernando to the south. The consequence has hitherto been, that, except in the very height of the dry season, intercourse between the north and south of the Island has been kept up solely by sea, by means of the steamer plying in the Gulf, or by sailing and row-boats. By the exertions of the wardens and the local road boards, constant improvements and extensions have been made in the existing roads on each side of this barrier. From the northern end of the new bridge there is now

uninterrupted communication with Port of Spain, and but little is required to be done to fill up gaps in that between the southern edge of the Savannah and San Fernando. It remains to construct a highway across the Savannah itself, of about nine miles, and a survey of this line is now being made by the Inspector of Roads. It is true that there is reason to believe that this connecting link will be provided in due time by the Trinidad Railway Company, with which in the course of last year the Colony entered into negotiations, on terms mutually advantageous; but several years must elapse before any of its projected lines can be completed, and it is not yet decided when or on which of them it will commence operations. In the meantime the districts immediately to the south of the Grand Savannah are languishing from their comparative inaccessibility, the conformation of the land putting them even out of the reach of the steam service; and administration of the law is rendered defective in them from the same cause. To them, therefore, above all others, a junction with the new Caroni Bridge would be a real boon, and I am in hopes that by the combined action of the central Government and of the local authorities means may be found for affording it to them.

20. Such a road, though highly necessary for ensuring prompt communication, would in no way or in a very slight degree affect the question of the transport of produce. The roads more especially kept up for this object run, not parallel to but at right angles to the line of coast, that is, to the many spots made use of as shipping places in the Gulf; and as cultivation has extended inland it has become more and more a matter of importance to maintain them in as efficient a state as the difficulty of obtaining proper material will admit of, or to provide substitutes for them more fitted for the purpose. The latter alternative is being adopted in more than one locality, under the provisions of Ordinance No. 4. of 1856. A line of tramway, eight miles in length, with several branches, is in course of formation, and in a state of considerable forwardness, in the southern division of the county of Victoria; another, of four miles in length, has been commenced in the district of Chaguanas in the county of Caroni; while the preliminary steps are being taken for laying down a third, of seven miles in length, in the northern division of the former county.

21. I have alluded to the difficulty of obtaining materials for road-making. This of itself is evidence of great and wide-spread richness of soil, and that the colony rejoices in a practically unlimited extent of lands of the utmost fertility. I had ocular demonstration when I made a tour of the whole Island in the early part of the year, and endeavoured to reach its centre by a route hitherto untried; but on this point the report of the gentlemen who have been employed on the geological survey of the Island will no doubt give ample information. It will be ready, I understand, to be forwarded to you before the end of the year.

22. I had the advantage of the company of these gentlemen at various places during my journey, and with them I inspected, among other objects of interest, the coal which they have discovered upon the face of the cliffs along a portion of the eastern coast. Their endeavours to trace its course inland have been much impeded by the dense forests which clothe the surface of the Island wherever it is uncleared, but I believe they have observed sufficient indications of it to be able to come to some general conclusions on the subject, if not, as I hope, however, may be the case, to fix upon a spot more within reach than the inhospitable coast on which it was first seen, where operations for extracting it might be likely to meet with success. It has been pronounced to be a tertiary coal of good quality; but the trial made of it on a small scale on board H. M. ship "Buzzard" has shown it to possess defects which render it more or less unsuited for purposes of navigation; for local use in sugar mills, and probably for railroad engines, it would be of great value, if easily procurable in sufficient quantities.

23. Though in the course of these observations I have taken a sanguine view of the prospects of the Colony, I am by no means blind to the possibility of circumstances occurring which may retard for a time its progress, and necessitate redoubled cautiousness in the management of its finances. Great advantage has been taken latterly of their flourishing condition to carry out public works long in contemplation, and urgently requiring to be undertaken; the expenditure under this head has therefore been large, and it is likely to be so for some time longer, if the state of the revenue should continue to justify it. The most pressing wants of the community in this respect have, however, now been met, or will shortly be so, and the liabilities of the Colony have been proportionably diminished. The works remaining to be executed are mostly such as may be carried out either at once or by degrees, and they have been planned accordingly; and

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for one at least of them, namely, the improvements of the harbour, a separate fund will in all probability be raised. The great pressure upon the resources of the Colony, and to bear which they must be husbanded and developed, will no doubt for many years to come be its expenditure for the introduction of labour from distant sources; but it is to the returns from this very outlay, large though it may be, that I look with confidence for effecting such development on the one hand, or for meeting on the other those temporary checks to prosperity which circumstances extraneous to the Colony are apt from time to time to produce.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) ROB. W. KEATE.

Encl. in No. 11.

Enclosure in No. 11.

Extract of Report of the Keeper of the Royal Gaol, for the year 1857, laid before the Council of Government on 1st February 1858.

Royal Gaol, 11th January 1858.

The Convicts Depôts at Irois.

These establishments have greatly tended as a check to crime, from the fact that prisoners who have been sent thither, and undergone their sentence, have not been recommitted to gaol.

The labour performed there has not only been beneficial financially but politically; and were it even only the latter, still a great point is achieved, inasmuch as it has the effect of checking crime, and of enforcing that real hard labour which is intended by the sentence.

It is a source of gratification to me to be able to assert that the effects of these depôts is far greater than can be imagined. In the first place, the convicts are removed beyond the possibility of seeing or of hearing of their friends and relatives; their occupation is of a nature sufficient to cause reflection even in the mind of the most ignorant; they see and know practically what they have to undergo; and they, moreover, are cognizant that only by a radical change in their conduct, and by a due regard to obedience, they can for one moment entertain "hope."

Their labour tends also to go towards their keep; and it may fairly be asserted that nothing could have been devised having a greater tendency to eradicate evil propensities, and to curb violent and refractory dispositions, than the above-named establishments.

The behaviour of the convicts has been all that could be desired; and in stating this I can further observe, that punishments for disobedience or other offences have not exceeded two during the past twelve months, a feature which, considering the daily average of prisoners (thirty at each depôt), is of sufficient proof of what I have advanced. It is also a matter of import to state that the larger number of convicts located at these establishments are men whose sentences vary from two to four years.

As a means of conducting things in such manner as may be advantageous to the convict and to society at large, a strict moral discipline is carried out, as it is far better, in isolated establishments or penal settlements of this kind, to moralize a man, and convince him of his fault, and the fatal consequences that will attend if he persists in doing evil, than to have recourse to severe punishments. In doing so I have no hesitation in saying that I have succeeded with every advantage to the convict and to the country.

During the past year a total of 24,000 cubic feet of balatta, crapeau, locust, tapana, cedar, galba, and mora timber, and 160 cords of firewood, have been the result of the labour of the convicts.

BRITISH GUIANA.

BRITISH
GUIANA.

No. 12.

No. 12.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to the Right Hon.
Sir E. B. LYTTON, Bart.

(No. 138.)

Government House, Georgetown,
December 22, 1858.

(Received January 20, 1859.)

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book for British Guiana for 1857. The revenue of the Colony for that year will be found to have exceeded that for 1856 to the amount of 36,041*l*. The principal changes in the taxation worthy of notice are the cessation of the produce export tax, and the imposition of the registration tax. The former had been imposed some years before; as a special provision for Immigration, and the payment of it fell upon the planters, as the producers of the main articles of export. In 1855 and 1856 arrangements were made by which the payment of a considerable proportion of the cost of Immigration was devolved upon the planters; and it was then admitted that the duty on produce exported, a tax objectionable in its nature, might with propriety be dispensed with.

The registration tax had had its origin in the riots which occurred in the Colony in the early part of 1856. The Legislature then undertook to pay compensation amounting to about 60,000*l*. to those whose property had been destroyed, and resolved that the outlay should be recovered by an annual tax upon all able-bodied people of two dollars for males and one dollar for females. The tax was levied in 1857, and again in 1858, but was abolished, with very little judgment or discretion, by a majority of the Combined Court, in their annual session for this year.

The expenditure for 1857 was 280,879*l*., against 235,013*l*. for 1856. The increase is to be found under the heads of Annuities and Gratuities, Immigration, Militia, Revenue Establishments, Cholera, and Loans repaid.

The gratuities granted by the Combined Court were more numerous and of a higher class than common. The expenditure for Immigration was much increased by our having been obliged to liquidate various old claims outstanding against the Colony for transactions of past years.

The arrangements for calling out a part of the Colonial Militia came into operation in the latter part of 1856, and consequently but a small charge was incurred during that year. As was to be expected, many difficulties were encountered in the outset, but it may be hoped that most of them have been overcome, and that it will be found practicable to maintain the force in an efficient condition. It is divided into cavalry, artillery, rifle and line companies, and service in one of them is compulsory upon the inhabitants of Georgetown possessing certain pecuniary qualifications; but those liable are permitted to volunteer for the cavalry, artillery, or rifles.

The revenue establishments were increased in consequence of the imposition of the registration tax, and since its abolition they have been again reduced.

Under the head of Loans repaid is included the redemption of one series of the bonds issued in compensation for the riots.

Of the Ordinances passed during the year, two only seem to call for special notice here. One, No. 10, relative to the introduction of Portuguese immigrants; the other, No. 12, for the establishment of dispensaries. It had become evident, from the experience of past years, that the Portuguese immigrants from Madeira were, almost without exception, so industrious in their habits as to render it unnecessary to have recourse to indentures of service for the purpose of securing an adequate return for the cost of their introduction; while at the same time such large numbers of them had already been introduced as to remove all fear of the new comers falling into distress on their first arrival. It was therefore determined to appropriate a sum for the payment of the passages of a certain number, upon the express condition that they should not be brought under indentures, but left free to locate themselves at their own discretion. The full number for which provision was made have already arrived, and the Government continues paying, in the confidence that the Legislature will sanction the further outlay.

The dispensaries have been established experimentally. The want of medical relief, from which the inhabitants of the rural districts, not attached to estates, were suffering,

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had been frequently and urgently pressed upon the consideration of the Government; and when, by the imposition of the registration tax, the whole population of the Colony was subjected to a direct contribution to the revenue, it was felt that the measure might very properly be accompanied by an attempt to provide for one of the most urgent wants of the lower orders. And, notwithstanding the abolition of that tax, the Government has been able up to this time to prevent the discontinuance of the dispensaries. At present, however, we can only regard them as experimental, and I should be sorry to venture an opinion as to their ultimate success.

In conclusion, I have to express my regret, that for reasons, explained in previous Despatches the returns of Trade and Shipping have not been filled up; but I trust that in future Blue Books the deficiency will be supplied to a considerable extent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

BARBADOS.

BARBADOS.

No. 13.

No. 13.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HINCKS to the Right Hon.
Sir E. B. LYTTON, Baronet.

(No. 48.)

Windward Islands, Barbados,
September 1, 1858.
(Received October 2, 1858.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the Barbados Blue Book for the Year 1857, and to offer the following observations thereon:—

2. Having in my report on the Blue Book for 1856 submitted lengthened explanations on the fiscal position of the colony, the course of its trade, and the nature of its various institutions, my principal duty on the present occasion will be to institute a comparison between the operations of the past year and those of the preceding one.

Revenue and Expenditure.

3. I estimated the annual revenue of the colony in my last report at about 80,000*l.* The actual receipts in 1857 were 82,592*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.*, and there was no material increase or falling off in any particular branch.

4. The expenditure for 1857 was considerably in excess of that of 1856. This arose from causes which I shall briefly explain. About 11,500*l.* was expended on a new steam dredge, on the public wharves, and in blasting operations in the carenage. In 1856 the expenditure under that head was about 500*l.* The Government House was under repair in both years, but the expenditure in 1857 exceeded by 1,100*l.* that in 1856. There were also increased grants in 1857 to the general hospital, to the roads, and to the educational board, making an aggregate of 21,077*l.* of disbursements in excess of 1856.

5. It is gratifying to me to be able to report that, notwithstanding the increased expenditure during last year to which I have called attention, there has been no diminution in the available surplus, which was 21,359*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.* at the close of 1857, against 19,787*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.* at the same period of 1856.

Public Works.

6. In my last report I indicated the probable expenditure under this head. The Government House has been completely rebuilt, but some of the out-offices are still in the same dilapidated condition as the main building prior to its reconstruction. The public offices have not been commenced; but plans and estimates are under consideration. The Mole head improvements are in progress, and the steam dredge is at last in complete working order.

Imports and Exports.

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7. The official returns show a great increase in the value of the exports of the colony, the aggregate having been 1,345,361*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* in 1857, against 921,028*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.* in 1856. I must, however, offer some remarks in explanation of this important return.

8. I drew attention in my last report to the extent of the intercolonial trade between Barbados and the other West India colonies, owing to the windward position of the former, which renders it a convenient depôt for the latter.

9. I find that the exports from Barbados to the British Islands were 183,167*l.* in 1857, against 152,426*l.* in 1856; to British Guiana 87,759*l.* in 1857, against 35,690*l.* in 1856. The aggregate exports to the neighbouring colonies, therefore, were 85,000*l.* more in 1857 than in 1856. I stated in my last report that the exports of 1856 had been considerably under estimated, and that 130,000*l.* might safely be added to the value of the staple article of export. With these allowances, the exports of 1857 would be about 150,000*l.*, higher in value than those of 1856.

10. The imports of 1857 are stated in the official returns to have been 976,306*l.* in 1857, against 841,254*l.* in 1856; but the local consumption did not increase to this extent, for, as I have already pointed out, a considerable portion of the imports was re-exported to the neighbouring colonies.

11. It may be interesting to notice the course of trade between Barbados and other countries. The imports from the United Kingdom were 475,855*l.* in 1857, against 351,440*l.* in 1856; and the exports thereto 937,822*l.* in 1857, against 660,959*l.* in 1856.

12. Referring to particular items, there was an increased importation in 1857 of linens and cottons to the extent of 33,424*l.*, butter 2,793*l.*, bricks 1,719*l.*, corn and grain 6,556*l.*, coals 2,759*l.*, copper 4,608*l.*, cordage 2,903*l.*, hardware 12,000*l.*, manures 24,392*l.* (the direct importation of guano was proportionately less), salted meats 13,479*l.*, soap 2,961*l.*, machinery 2,483*l.*, woodhoops 1,795*l.*

13. The imports from the United States were 244,955*l.* in 1857, against 274,030*l.* in 1856, and the exports thereto 92,919*l.* in 1857, against 74,510*l.* in 1856. The falling-off in the imports from the United States was chiefly in the articles of bread, salted meats, corn and grain, and corn meal. In these articles there was a decreased importation in 1857 of 42,689*l.*, while there was an increased importation, of horses and mules 5,405*l.*, lumber 8,567*l.*, tobacco 4,655*l.*, and cordage 5,135*l.*

14. The imports from the British North American colonies were 101,393*l.* in 1857, against 72,069*l.* in 1856, and the exports thereto 29,412*l.*, against 29,014*l.* There was an increased importation of fish to the extent of 11,869*l.*, and of lumber, including shingles and staves, to that of 14,039*l.*

15. The imports from the British colonies in the West Indies were 100,023*l.* in 1857, against 77,925*l.* in 1856. This inter-colonial trade is one of great importance to Barbados, and the returns prove that it is in a flourishing condition.

Gaols and Prisoners.

16. The returns show that the total number of prisoners in confinement at Michaelmas 1857 was 322, against 393 at the same period in 1856, and that the greatest number in confinement at any one time in 1857 was 502, against 557 in 1856.

17. Although the means of classifying the prisoners are defective, and will necessarily continue so until the projected extension of Glendairy Prison shall have been completed, yet there are so many places of confinement in the island, and at such convenient distances, that it is found practicable to have two prisons for females, one for boys, one for males summarily convicted, one for the worst felons, who are confined in separate cells and the common gaol, which admits of partial classification.

Agriculture.

18. The compiler of the Blue Book has had again to report his inability to furnish reliable agricultural statistics, owing to the reluctance exhibited by many of the leading proprietors to supply the required information. It will, I fear, be found impossible to obtain returns from the estates without a compulsory enactment; and in the present state of public opinion the recommendation of such a measure would merely create irritation without being productive of any good. It may be hoped that in the course of time the proprietors will become convinced that this information is sought for with a view to their own benefit.

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19. It is stated in the Blue Book, that according to a rough estimate there are upwards of 100,000 acres of land in cultivation in the island, 30,000 of which are annually planted in canes, the remainder being planted in provisions, or with grass as forage for the cattle. I shall proceed to state the result of my own inquiries on the subject.

20. The island contains about 106,500 acres of land, which may, I think, be fairly divided as follows:—Cane land in the sugar estates, 55,000 acres; pasture land, town plots, ordnance land, roads, yards, and land unfit for cultivation, 31,500 acres; labourers' allotments, 9,500; and land of small proprietors, 10,500. Of the 55,000 acres of cane land, 30,000 acres may be estimated as annually reaped, the remaining portion being in young canes for the crop of the following year, and 5,000 acres being a rough estimate of the land in ratoons. Provisions are chiefly grown on the cane lands in the interval between the reaping of one crop and the planting of the next.

21. There can, I think, be little doubt that the produce of the land in the labourers' allotments and in the holdings of the small proprietors is from 7,000 to 8,000 hogsheads. In Dr. Davy's "West Indies before and since Emancipation" the labourers' crop of 1846-7 is stated to have been 7,000 hogsheads. I have no doubt, however, that this included the crop of the small proprietors.

22. It is a remarkable circumstance, that in this island, where land is held at such high prices, ranging in small parcels from 400\$ to 700\$ per acre, the labouring classes should already have acquired so large a proportion of that available for cultivation, which probably does not much, if at all, exceed 75,000 acres. It furnishes striking evidence of the industry of the population.

23. It is likewise a fact deserving of notice, that in no other colony, so far as my information extends, are the labourers so much encouraged to cultivate the sugar cane on their own account. I believe that the liberality of the proprietary body in aiding the labourers to reap and manufacture their small cane crops has been attended with the best results, and has been the principal means of restricting that emigration which the higher wages given in one or two of the other colonies would otherwise have induced.

24. It is not by any means an uncommon thing for labourers on a Barbadian estate to make 20 to 25 hogsheads of sugar, which in ordinary times would be worth from 250*l.* to 400*l.*

Concluding Remarks.

25. It is gratifying to me to be able to report, that the past year has been marked by the establishment of voluntary associations among the proprietors for promoting the amelioration of the condition of the labouring classes.

26. One of these associations has been formed in London by the non-resident proprietors, and two others have been established in the island. Among many reforms which have engaged the consideration of the local associations has been a change in the tenure of the land leased to the labourers.

27. I have long been of opinion that the abandonment of the sugar estates by the creole labourers in many of the West India colonies is mainly to be attributed to the unsatisfactory tenure established at the period of emancipation, under the mistaken idea of keeping the labourers in a state of dependence on the proprietors.

28. It is not in the West Indies alone that cheap land has led to a scarcity of agricultural labourers, and of course to high rates of wages. The same cause has produced a like result in Canada and the United States.

29. But in my opinion the West India planter has a most important advantage over the Canadian farmer, owing to the fact that the staple tropical product, the sugar cane, must be manufactured on the spot, and that the skill and capital required for this purpose place it out of the power of ordinary labourers to cultivate the cane without the aid of capitalists.

30. It is, moreover, admitted on all hands that the most profitable tropical product is the sugar cane, and that it would be for the general interest of the community, proprietors as well as labourers, that all available labour should be employed in the production of this plant.

31. It is in my opinion a fatal error to rest satisfied with the common allegation that the creole labourers are notoriously idle, and inclined to relapse into barbarism. It must, I think, be conceded, that the exceptions are too marked and too numerous not to render such an assertion a very unsafe guide for a statesman.

32. What are the ordinary inducements to industry on the part of creole labourers? In most of the colonies circumstances have rendered it difficult if not impossible for them to cultivate the cane. Their industry is chiefly employed in the raising of provisions, for which there is a very limited demand, and which if redundantly supplied would fall in price.

33. It may be alleged that it would be open to the labourers to cultivate the cane on their allotments on the sugar estates, as indeed they do in Barbados; but there is a simple and obvious reason for their not doing so elsewhere even, if they were permitted by the proprietors. No man will remain as a tenant at will, liable to ejectment at a few days' notice, if he can obtain a freehold of his own.

34. The tenure, I have no doubt, drives the labourers from the sugar estates, and when removed from them the cultivation of the cane is out of their power. In Barbados the labourers remain on the estates, not because they like the tenure, but because the scarcity and high price of land place freeholds beyond their reach; but even there the fact to which I have elsewhere referred, that 10,000 acres of land have already been acquired by the industrious classes, is conclusive proof that the tenure is only submitted to from necessity.

35. I believe that if at the period of emancipation the small allotments had been granted in freehold to the labourers, or even sold to them at prices as low as they could have got land elsewhere, and if at the same time encouragement had been given to them by the manufacture of their small crops which would have been raised by the labour of extra hours, there would have been little, if any, abandonment of the estates.

36. I am persuaded that the dependence of the proprietors and labourers on one another would have produced the best results, and would have led to mutual good feeling, to the absence of which many of the calamities which have been experienced are to be attributed.

37. It is certainly a remarkable fact, that in Barbados, where alone the labourer is dependent on the proprietor both for employment and for the land on which he lives, and where consequently the latter can dictate his own terms as to the tenure of land, the first movement should be voluntarily made by enlightened planters towards the establishment of a better system.

38. It is equally remarkable that the wages of the labourers in Barbados are as high as in many of the adjoining colonies where property is less than one fifth of the price which it commands here.

39. The opinion is so general that the prosperity of Barbados is to be ascribed solely to the abundance and cheapness of its labour, that it is not without hesitation that I venture to state the opinion which I have formed on that subject, which, however, is the result of information derived from the most experienced planters.

40. I am convinced that it is to the economical management of labour and to agricultural skill that the prosperity of Barbados is mainly to be attributed. The use of the plough and of other implements of husbandry may be found impracticable in other colonies, but if so I fear that sugar cannot be produced so cheaply as in those colonies where such facilities are attainable by the planters. The advantage which Barbados enjoys is rather in the small number of labourers required to cultivate the estates, and to the skilful and economical management of the latter, than in the superabundant supply of labour.

41. There can, I think, be little doubt that the number of labourers employed in the production of sugar in Barbados is much less in proportion than in those colonies from which the strongest complaints have been made of the scarcity of labour.

42. I have already estimated the land available for cane cultivation in this island, exclusive of that held by small proprietors and that occupied in allotments by the labourers, at 55,000 acres. According to the best information within my reach, the number of agricultural labourers employed does not exceed 22,000, or $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres to each. This will be considered a very large proportion of labourers, when compared with England, even making ample allowance for the number engaged in the manufacture of the crop.

43. It must be borne in mind that not more than 30,000 acres of the above 55,000 are in canes for the crop of each year, and these, if the season be favourable, will yield an average of $1\frac{1}{2}$ hogsheads of sugar per acre, though $1\frac{1}{4}$ hogsheads is probably as much as can safely be calculated on.

44. I think that the planters' crop, excluding that of the small proprietors' and labourers' will hardly average 40,000 hogsheads, but it may be estimated at that in round figures, which would give nearly $1\frac{1}{8}$ hogsheads to each labourer. In estimating 22,000 labourers as the maximum number employed, I should observe that I have assumed all to be first-

BARBADOS. — class labourers, due allowance having been made for women in the second-class and children. There are about three fourths of the labourers in the first class, and one eighth in each of the others. I estimate that on an average 200 days' labour is given by each labourer in the year; and as wages vary from 10*d.* to 1*s.* per task, I have taken 11*d.* as a fair average.

45. By this calculation 5*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.* would be the cost of labour in each hogshead of sugar averaging about 15 cwt. net in England. I admit that this would be considered by many planters as a low estimate, but I give it as the result of careful inquiry on a subject on which it is difficult to obtain precise information. Of course the cost of labour differs materially on the various estates, according to the skill and economy with which they are conducted, and it is desirable, in stating my own opinions, to accompany them with those of others. I may therefore mention that two agricultural societies in this island estimated the cost of labour per hogshead in the year 1847 at 6*l.* 5*s.* Since that period there can be no doubt that, owing to a more extended use of implements and of increased economy, the cost has been reduced; and it has been repeatedly stated to me that 5*l.* is an ample allowance. I have tested the accuracy of these statements in various ways; and I have seen returns from well-managed estates, showing the amount paid for wages during several years, the average having been under 4*l.* per hogshead. My own conviction is that my average is rather over than under the actual cost of labour.

46. It is considered in Barbados that the miscellaneous expenses on an estate, viz., casks, salaries of managers and skilled workmen, cost of manures and other supplies, maintenance of stock, and wear and tear of buildings and machinery, are rather more than the cost of labour; and 10*l.* per hogshead is now considered a full estimate for the entire cost of production of the sugar crop including rum, molasses, and provisions, irrespective of the interest of invested capital.

47. It seems to me most improbable, looking to the prices which have been paid for estates during the last few years by gentlemen of large property and great experience, that the cost of labour per hogshead can be greater than I have estimated it at, and if not the statement as to the number employed on the estates must be tolerably accurate.

48. It is satisfactory to be able to report, in conclusion, that the labouring classes seem to be contented, and that a good understanding prevails between them and their employers, who manifest an increasing interest in the social improvement of the masses of the people.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. HINCKS.

GRENADA.

GRENADA.

No. 14.

No. 14.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HINCKS to the Right Honourable
Lord STANLEY.

(No. 19.)

Windward Islands, Barbados,
May 10, 1858.

MY LORD,

(Received May 31, 1858.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the copy of a Despatch from the Lieutenant-Governor of Grenada, together with the Blue Book for the year 1857, and three enclosures accompanying it.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. HINCKS.

Enclosure 1 in No. 14.

GRENADA.

Encl. in No. 14.

(No. 35.)

SIR,

Government Office, Grenada, April 16, 1858.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the Blue Book for the year 1857, together with my report thereon.

2. It is with pleasure that I have to remark that the state of the finances during the whole of the year has been most satisfactory. The fixed revenue, amounting to 11,994*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.*, has exceeded that of 1856 by 1,156*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.* The increase on imports has been 1,303*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.* A corresponding augmentation of tonnage dues has taken place; whilst under the heads of water tax, spirit licences, and duty on rum there has been a decrease. The incidental receipts, amounting to 5,493*l.* 6*s.* 1*d.*, have fallen somewhat short of those of 1856. This sum includes a loan of 1,400*l.*

3. The arrears of revenue of the previous year were 1,436*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.*, and the total amount collected during the year 1857 has been 17,487*l.* 14*s.*, and the total expenditure 13,544*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.*, leaving a surplus in the treasury at the end of the year of 5,378*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.*, and showing a decrease in the expenditure, compared with 1856, of 1,909*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.*

This saving has been effected principally by the abolition of the offices of comptroller of colonial customs and of inspector of police, and by a reduction in the salary of the public treasurer and in the pay of the police force.

RECAPITULATION.

	1856.	1857.	—
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Fixed Revenue - - -	10,837 11 10	11,994 7 11	1,156 16 1 Increase
Incidental Receipts - - -	5,613 9 1	5,493 6 1	120 3 0 Decrease
Total Revenue - - -	16,451 0 11	17,487 14 0	1,036 13 1 Total increase in 1857.
Arrears of preceding year - -	4,390 0 2	1,436 2 1	—
Total Amount at Disposal of Colony	16,890 1 1	18,923 16 1	—
Expenditure - - -	15,453 19 0	13,544 17 7	1,909 1 5 Decrease in 1857.

Surplus on the 31st December 1857 - - £5,378 18 6

5. In January 1857 a debt of 1,400*l.*, bearing interest at the rate of 6 per centum per annum, payable quarterly, and redeemable at the expiration of 5 years, was incurred to meet the exigencies of the colony. This amount is chargeable on the general revenues of the island. A sum of 360*l.* was raised by the Supply Act of March 1857, for the payment of the interest, and for the formation of a sinking fund for the liquidation of the debt. An Act has lately been passed authorizing the deposit of this money at interest in the Colonial Bank. The state of the finances for the past year marks a favourable change in the condition of the island, the increased revenue having arisen from an augmentation in the imports, and not from any incidental receipts.

6. Some time since the question of the entire abolition of customs duties was one which occupied the public mind, and which found many advocates in this community. Discussion upon the subject has lately been revived in consequence of a letter which appeared in the "Chronicle" newspaper of the 13th of March last, addressed to the editor by Mr. Thomson Hankey, M.P., the agent for the colony, a copy of which I transmit herewith. The advantages that the colony would derive from relieving all imports into it from duties have not been exaggerated by Mr. Hankey. There is no doubt that the mercantile body would import more largely; that what are now called luxuries, and which as such are liable to a heavy duty, would be placed within reach of all classes, and that the facility with which they might be obtained would cause them ere long to be regarded by the labouring population as necessities; and I believe that one of the greatest auxiliaries to the advancement of civilization among the black population in the West Indies would be the introduction of comforts, or comparative luxuries, at so cheap a rate as to make them common in every cottage.

7. I entirely concur, therefore, with the opinion of those who contend that the removal of all restrictions on the entry of shipping and the importation of goods into the island would be of material benefit to the whole population; and that the principle of establishing free ports, whenever practicable, is sound. It must not be forgotten, on the other hand, that if the system has its advantages, there are numerous and very great difficulties to be overcome before it can be brought into operation.

8. The revenue derived from imports amounted last year to 7,993*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.*, or in round numbers to 8,000*l.* If this large item of revenue is to be given up, it is perfectly clear that we must be prepared to find an equivalent, in order to maintain the revenue in its present condition. This can only be done by direct taxation, and the difficulties of making a total change in the mode of taxation must be seriously weighed and most gravely considered.

9. Duties on imports are not felt in any way burdensome; it is a system to which the people are accustomed, and to which they offer no objection. Those who are acquainted with the West Indies,

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and with the character of the labouring population, are aware of the horror with which they regard any attempts at direct taxation. It is difficult to persuade them that it would be conducive to their good; and it is very doubtful whether they could be brought to consider an improvement in their social position as an equivalent for an increased taxation. I feel satisfied that no reliance could be placed on the countenance or support of the majority of the upper or middle classes, some from objecting to the principle of the measure, and some from alarm at the probable opposition of the lower orders to the introduction of a system of internal assessments. I know, from experience, that the collection of direct taxes is at all times difficult, and generally very imperfect, and I believe that in Grenada it would be attended with much greater expense proportionably than the collection of customs duties.

10. The great and principal difficulty to be encountered and overcome would be the prejudices of nearly the whole population of Grenada, with the exception, perhaps, of the mercantile body. I confess that in the present state of the West Indies, taking into consideration the excitable character of the labouring class, and the really little influence possessed over them in this island by the planters as a body, even supposing that the latter should be brought to take a favourable view of the subject, I consider that an attempt to introduce a sudden change in the mode of taxation would be an experiment fraught with so large an amount of danger, and that the risk and responsibility attendant on the levying direct taxes to the amount of 8,000*l.* would be so great, that it would be unwise to attempt it until the minds of the people had been fully prepared for so great an innovation. As a preparatory measure, however, and as one which would, I believe, to a considerable extent, increase the imports, I am quite prepared to recommend the abolition of the tonnage duties on vessels discharging or receiving cargo in the ports of this island. The amount raised by these duties during 1857 did not exceed 830*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.* This small sum would, I have reason to believe, be more than made up by the increase in the imports consequent on the abolition of a law which subjects the transient trader to a tonnage duty on the burthen of his vessel of at least 4*½d.* in the ton on the smallest trade that he may have with this island, the largest duty being 1*s.* 6*d.*, there being an intermediate one of 9*d.* in the ton. A Bill was some time since introduced into the House of Assembly for the purpose of relaxing these duties in certain cases. The report of the attorney general upon it was unfavourable, and pointed out several defects in it which would have rendered the Act ineffective in its operation. I thought this a good opportunity to recommend that all the Acts connected with tonnage should be taken into consideration by the legislature, with a view to their consolidation. Since then I have adopted the opinion that it would be advantageous in many respects, and perfectly safe, to repeal the laws altogether. Should the deficiency caused in the revenue by the abolition of tonnage duties fail to be met by an increase in the imports, I do not believe that any opposition would be offered to low stamp duties on deeds, law proceedings, and other written or printed instruments; nor to duties on legacies and successions to personal estates on intestacies. I am not in a position at present to state what amount might be raised by a Stamp Act of this description, but should it prove productive the tariff of import duties might be reduced.

11. A land tax imposed for the first time last year yielded 1,193*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.*, being nearly 200*l.* in excess of the sum which it was calculated the rate would produce. In my Despatch, No. 14, Legislative, of the 12th March 1857, I expressed an opinion entirely favourable to a land tax, as one of the most legitimate that could be imposed, although I did not thoroughly approve of the principle on which this one was to be adjusted. It appears, however, to have worked tolerably well for the one year that it has been tried. The small settlers paid cheerfully, although they were taxed proportionably higher than the larger proprietors; indeed by these latter alone has any dislike to the tax been evinced. A strong attempt was made this year by the planters in the House of Assembly to get rid of it; they have not succeeded, but I regret to say that it has been reduced to one-half. This demonstrates clearly the opposition that would be offered by the planters to a system of internal taxation. They appear to consider that if the abolition or relaxation of the customs duties necessitated an increased direct taxation on themselves, the merchants would be benefited at their cost, forgetting that it can be of no essential consequence to them whether they pay a certain amount in the shape of a tax on their land or as import duties on those articles necessary for their consumption and for the cultivation of the land, and keeping out of view the principle that if low customs duties would tend to the general benefit of the island, they must of necessity be participators, in common with the mercantile body, in any amelioration that might take place in the condition of the country.

12. The Executive Council, established towards the end of 1856, vested with all the powers of the Privy Council, consisting of ten members selected from the two deliberative branches of the legislature, care having been taken to appoint the most influential members of the Assembly, has undoubtedly proved of great service, by bringing the Governor into immediate connection with the legislature, by enabling him to ascertain the views and opinions of the House on most matters of importance, and by placing the legislature in possession of his ideas, without having to resort to the old custom of communicating them by means of messages, which could rarely convey such full explanations as were necessary to elucidate a subject, unless extended to a length that would rather weary than command the attention of the members. The dispassionate consideration by a Council of ten of most measures of importance previously to their being placed before the legislature is without doubt an immense improvement on the old system, under which the most momentous questions were initiated by independent members, and were taken up and dealt with by the House with probably very little, if any, previous consideration, the result, as might be expected, being too frequently a crude and imperfect measure, for which no one was responsible. With these manifest advantages the Executive Council is not yet by any means perfect in its constitution. Of the ten members of which it is composed, three only reside in town, and it is only on such occasions as the meetings of the courts of law or of the

egislature that a full board can be expected. Of the three members residing in town, one, a merchant, is seldom able to leave his business, and another is too infirm to give much attention to public matters. Were it not for the regular attendance of two gentlemen residing some few miles from St. George's, who have frequently at great personal inconvenience placed their services at my disposal whenever I required them, and performed gratuitously the duties of a working committee, the Executive Council would have entirely failed in the object it was intended to effect.

13. It is evident that in order to render the Executive Council practically useful, and to carry out to its full extent the purpose for which it was established, it is necessary to provide salaries for the members of a working committee, for it is not to be expected that they would willingly bear, without remuneration, the responsibility and actual labour which their political and executive position would impose on such a committee.

14. The legislature met on the 3d of November, and that being the commencement of another financial year, with the advice and concurrence of the Executive Council, I availed myself of the opportunity this circumstance afforded me to open the legislature in person, and to make it acquainted with my views on the subject of a paid executive committee. A Bill, having for its models the Jamaica, Tobago, and St. Christopher Executive Committee Acts, was prepared and submitted to the Assembly. It proposed to provide salaries for the members of an executive committee, to consist of three persons selected from the legislative bodies, who should be the responsible advisers of the Governor, assisting him in the administration, and performing certain executive duties now performed by joint legislative committees; and it followed, with slight deviation, the wording of the Acts to which I have referred. I am sorry to say it has met with great opposition in the House of Assembly. I believe that personal feeling of enmity and dislike for some of the members of the Executive Council have had more to do with the violence and determination of the opposition than any real aversion to the measure itself. There are two provisions in the Bill which its opponents contend would encroach on the privileges and diminish the powers of the Assembly. The first is the clause which provides that all motions for grants and appropriations of money should originate in the House with the members of the executive committee or with their sanction, and the second is the provision that the Governor and the executive committee shall discharge the duties of a board of audit and all other administrative duties now performed by joint committees of the two deliberative branches of the legislature. In no part of the Bill are its usefulness and merit in my opinion more conspicuous than in these two clauses, and the evils of the present system have clearly pointed out the necessity of applying the proposed remedy. On the government devolves the task of preparing the annual estimates of ways and means to meet the expenditure that may be deemed necessary to carry on public business. Whilst individual members enjoy the privilege of moving for votes of money after forty-eight hours' notice, the financial arrangements of the government must be at all times open to be disturbed, and the grave consideration which has been given to them rendered nugatory. It is also to be observed, that these money votes are not always referred to a committee of supply, where the whole financial question is under consideration, but are frequently made in the House, if their respective amounts do not exceed 100*l*. The sums thus voted appear small by themselves; but as the year advances they creep up, and reach an amount which probably the Assembly would never have agreed to if it had been asked for in the aggregate. I am perfectly convinced that until so vicious a system is abolished, and the power of moving for money grants is vested solely in a responsible government, or is exercised by others only with its sanction, the finances of the colony can never be placed on a secure or healthy footing. With regard to the second objection, those even most opposed to the principle of imposing certain administrative duties, now performed by joint committees, on the members of an executive committee, will, I believe, not deny that it is with the greatest difficulty that the members of the several committees can be brought together when their services are required. They are scattered over the island in all directions, and, with few exceptions, do not consider themselves bound to give up their time and to sacrifice their convenience; and I admit that the sacrifice is frequently great, to perform public duties for which they receive no remuneration whatever. The inevitable consequence is, that the business of the colony is retarded, the public accounts remain unaudited, and the credit of the colony falls in proportion to the delay which takes place in liquidating its liabilities.

15. A considerable portion of what I have said with reference to the joint committees applies also to the House of Assembly. It is composed principally of planters who cannot well afford to absent themselves from their homes for more than two days at a time to attend to their legislative duties. The business of the House generally commences late on the first day, and by two or three o'clock on the following day most of the country members are anxious to return home, and little time being left for the consideration of important measures, they are either hurried through, or unavoidably postponed until another session of similar duration. In such a state of things it is of urgent necessity that all subjects for legislation should be well and thoroughly considered before they are submitted to the House; and it appears to me that the only efficient mode of securing such a consideration would be by the employment of paid persons officially responsible to the legislative bodies.

16. The number of Acts passed by the legislature during the year 1857 has not exceeded seven. Of these probably only two require to be specially noticed. The first in importance is the one constituting a board of education, and the second the one providing for the establishment of a court of appeal. By the former Act the legislature, with commendable liberality, has placed at the disposal of a board of seven members, presided over by the Governor, the sum of 1,200*l*. annually for educational purposes. Provision is made in the Act for the appointment of a head master and inspector of schools, who is also to be the principal of a grammar and training school in the town of St. George. Unfortunately, as yet, the duties of the board of education have been merely nominal, owing to the diffi-

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culty which has occurred in procuring a fit and proper person for the head master, and the total want of practical knowledge in the members of the board. The old system of schools being under the uncontrolled superintendence of the clergymen of the several religious denominations, therefore, still exists, and I do not feel justified in reporting any improvement in educational matters. There is some hope, however, that no long time will now elapse before the groundwork of a better system will be laid, as the colony has fortunately secured the services of a gentleman having the highest testimonials of competency, and recommended as possessing qualifications of no ordinary description for the discharge of the very difficult duty which will be entrusted to him. He will have no light task in organising and reducing to a systemized form elements of the most antagonistic and conflicting nature. Mr. Noble is daily expected from Europe, and I trust that those who profess to feel an interest in the cause of education, and the upper class generally, will second his efforts, and give some tangible proof of their desire to see instruction disseminated among the peasantry of the island. Without support of this kind, and the hearty co-operation of the clergy, I feel convinced that not only will Mr. Noble be doomed to the disappointment consequent on the expenditure of talents and energy without a corresponding return, but that also the legislative grant will be totally inadequate to maintain in a state of efficiency the large number of schools which are necessary, in consequence of the variety of the religious denominations in the island, and the determined objection of the clergy to sanction the attendance of the children of their several congregations at any schools not presided over by themselves respectively, or by persons holding their tenets. I fear too that the class to which we might legitimately look for assistance does not view the education of the masses as an object of primary importance.

17. The next most important legislative Act for the last year, the providing for a court of appeal, scarcely demands any comment on my part, not because I underrate its importance, or the benefit it is calculated to be to this island, in common with such others of the general government of the Windward Islands as have adopted a similar one, but because it was taken from an Act passed in Barbados, with only such alterations as were necessary to adapt it to this island, and had been before considered and approved of by Her Majesty's Government, both in principle and in detail. Appeals will probably be of very rare occurrence; but the fact that a court for such appeals exists, and is easy of access, will greatly add to the authority of the judgments of the courts of this island in the estimation of the people. The advantages which may result from the establishment of this court are to be obtained, in so far as Grenada is concerned, at the very moderate yearly maximum cost of 175*l.*, while it is highly probable that less than one-half of that amount will be generally sufficient to defray the proportion of the expenses &c. to be borne by this island.

18. The militia of Grenada consists at present of a volunteer artillery corps, formed immediately after the withdrawal of Her Majesty's troops. It is composed of persons holding respectable positions in the community, and is officered by merchants carrying on business in the town of St. George. In 1855 a Militia Act was passed, giving legislative sanction to the corps, and limiting its strength to sixty men. It also authorized the raising of a company of rifles in each parish, not to exceed in the aggregate 1000 men. The artillery has attained a state of efficiency which reflects credit on the exertions of the officers, and on the patience with which the privates have submitted to the tediousness of drill and restraints of military discipline. A variety of causes have conspired to retard the enrolment of the rifle corps, the most prominent of which are, the delay that has occurred in providing arms for their use, and the disinclination of the men to furnish uniforms at their own expense. The legislature has this year granted 400*l.* for militia purposes, and I have ordered from England clothing to equip one company of rifles at Carriacou, and one in the town of St. George. This force, in concert with the artillery, is sufficient to repress any attempt at riot or tumult in the town, and will probably form the nucleus of a militia on a more extensive scale.

19. Considerable improvement has taken place in the roads since the appointment of a "surveyor of roads and public buildings," in 1855. The only public work of any importance completed during the past year has been the relaying of the pipes for the introduction of water into the town of St. George, at a cost of 950*l.* The public buildings have been kept generally in good order.

20. The scarcity of agricultural labour and immigration, are the two subjects which at present engross the minds of not only the planters, but of all persons connected with the West Indies, and interested in their present state and future prospects. Grenada, owing to its climate and fertility of soil, is capable of supporting in comfort and comparative affluence a population nearly double that it now possesses. Not more than 30,000 persons are scattered over an area of 83,451 acres or thereabouts. The facility with which land may be obtained induces an occasional serious want of labour on the sugar estates, which will in each successive year be more severely felt, not only in consequence of the daily secession of labourers from the ranks of hired servants to become proprietors on their own account, but also, I regret to say, from actual emigration to Trinidad. It is true that of those who leave this island a greater part return generally penniless, and so demoralized by their contact and companionship with a labouring people collected from all quarters of the world, and probably possessing all the vices which the amalgamation of a variety of races is apt to produce, that they have become unsettled in their habits, and utterly useless as labourers in their own country. It is difficult to assign any one reason of sufficient weight to be a conclusive one for this propensity in the native labourer to emigrate. The planters will tell you that the wages are not higher in Trinidad than in Grenada. If you ask the labourer what he has benefited by his residence in Trinidad, and whether he has saved money, he will tell you that he has had "too much pleasure," but that he has saved nothing, that he has gained more money than he would have done in the same period of time in Grenada, but that everything is so much dearer in Trinidad that he has spent his earnings as quickly as he has acquired them. There is probably some truth in this, and that whilst living is more expensive there are also

many more inducements to dissipation and extravagance in Trinidad than in Granada. Agents from Trinidad are constantly finding their way among our labouring population, and I have no doubt hold out allurements of higher wages and pleasure, which to those springing up into manhood, and unrestrained by any obligation of gratitude to those who might have exercised a salutary influence over them, are irresistible. It is far easier to see the evils attendant upon this constant emigration of labourers than to devise a remedy for them. The planters are urgent in their demand for legislative interference; but I am at a loss to conceive what measures can be passed by the legislature to prevent persons from exercising their undoubted right of going whither they please, and of choosing their own place of abode. The class of vessels engaged in the Trinidad trade, and used to convey labourers to that island, are of a description utterly unfit for the service in which they are employed. They average from eight to fifteen tons, and frequently carry from thirty to forty persons of all ages and of both sexes. Not only is this crowding together of so many individuals into a small space highly objectionable, on the ground of morality and common decency, but is attended with imminent risk to the lives of all on board in the event of bad weather. It is very desirable that some course should be adopted to regulate the number of passengers to be carried in these small vessels according to their tonnage. I have been frequently requested to issue a proclamation for the purpose of subjecting them to the provisions of the Passengers' Act, 1855, but, with every desire to check an undeniable evil, I cannot adopt so free a construction of the 97th clause of the Imperial Act as to feel myself justified in declaring the duration of the voyage between Grenada and Trinidad to exceed three days. I believe that if a remedy exists it is in the hands of the planters themselves. An increased rate of wages might possibly have some good effect, but the relation between master and servant must be subjected to an entire change, the mutual distrust existing between the two classes must disappear, before a healthier state of things can be brought about. It is a question difficult of solution, whether this evil is not now too deeply seated to be removed.

21. Annexed is a report from Mr. Cockburn, the immigration agent and acting stipendiary magistrate, containing some valuable remarks respecting the coolie immigrants who arrived here in May last. It is gratifying to find that the care and attention bestowed on them by their employers at the time of their arrival, when they were not in a condition to make much return, have been appreciated by them, and that their services are found to be most valuable. They appear to be exceeding tractable, but jealous of their rights, and keenly alive to any act of injustice. Mr. Cockburn evidently takes great interest in them, and has established among them so high a character for impartiality that they are perfectly satisfied to abide by his decision, and to be guided by his advice in any difference between themselves and their masters. They are classed in the same way as the native labourers, according to their usefulness and capability for work, and receive the same rate of wages, 10*d.* a day for the 1st class, and 8*d.* and 6*d.* for the 2d and 3d, and 3*d.* for extra hours in crop time. They have not availed themselves of the privilege of cultivating gardens on their own account, but are supplied with rice, fish, &c., on the estates at cost price. Mr. Cockburn reports that they are saving money.

22. The growing independence of the native labourer, and his consequent secession from work on the estates, will soon create a void in the labour market which will render a stream of immigration necessary to keep up the cultivation of the staple product of the island. It is generally admitted that the African makes the most efficient labourer, but if he is not to be obtained, the Indian appears to be well qualified to take the place of the creole. It is a remarkable fact, alluded to by Mr. Cockburn, that, so far from the immigrant being regarded by the native labourer with jealousy, he is rather viewed as one of the means destined to emancipate the latter from the necessity of offering his services for hire, and to enable him to become a cultivator of the soil for his own special benefit.

23. A proprietary body of considerable magnitude and importance has already risen from the labouring class, and several of its members are possessed of sufficient means to carry on beneficially agricultural pursuits. Mr. Cockburn's remarks, bearing upon this subject, contain some valuable information, and as he is a native of Grenada, possessed of considerable ability, and has been an eye-witness of the changes which have taken place of late years in the social condition of the island, I believe that much reliance may be placed on the correctness of his statements.

24. If it is desirable that the sugar estates should remain in the hands of the present class of proprietors, I am convinced that an abundant and immediate flow of immigration is necessary. The beneficial result of the very Inconsiderable accession of labourers from India by the "Maidstone" is very visible in the parish of St. Patrick, where they are principally located; and I am informed by the planters of that district, that the proceeds of the crop now in course of manufacture will largely exceed that of 1857, which improvement they ascribe in a great measure to their having had a constant supply of labour.

25. In order to show the extraordinary effects of immigration where labour is scarce, I give an extract of a letter written to me by a gentleman largely connected with estates here as well as in Trinidad, to which island his communication has reference. He says,—“Having alluded before to the colony of Trinidad, which has taken the lead of us in the system of immigration, perhaps it may not be out of place to give the working of that system there as far as I can from my own knowledge. I will confine myself to one estate there in which I am interested. During slavery it shipped about 120 hogsheads, which fell after emancipation to about 80 hogsheads; since the regular introduction of Coolie immigrants the crop has steadily increased to 400 hogsheads, the wages of labour having fallen from 2*s.* 6*d.* with rations to 10*d.* without rations, the present rate I pay.” If such an increase in the produce of an estate in Trinidad could be caused by an additional supply of labour, there is no reason why a similar improvement, though I scarcely think to the same extent, might not be effected by the same means in Grenada.

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26. In conclusion, I have the satisfaction to state, that contentment appears to pervade all classes of the community, and that I know of no circumstance calculated to disturb the internal tranquillity of the island. Annexed is a return, showing the number of prisoners confined in the gaol during the year 1857, with the nature of their offences, and the amount of imprisonment awarded to them respectively. One person was convicted at the February Sessions of murder, and was executed in March. In other respects the return is satisfactory, exhibiting fifty-two convictions less in 1857 than in the preceding year.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. H. KORTRIGHT.

His Excellency Governor Hincks,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 2
in No. 14.

Enclosure 2 in No. 14.

COMMUNICATION published in the St. George's Chronicle of March 13, 1858.

SIR,

I TRUST that I may be permitted to take advantage of your columns to bring under the notice of the whole community in Grenada a subject for their consideration, which, it appears to me, is second to none as regards the interest of all classes of the population in the island. I mean the question as to the expediency of continuing the present system of taxation, by which the revenue is now raised for the necessary expenditure of the government. I have on many occasions during the last six or seven years called the attention of private friends, who were taking an active part in the administration of affairs in the colony, to the advantage which in my opinion would be derived by the entire abolition of all customs duties, or charges on the entry of goods or shipping into the island of Grenada. The reply which I invariably received was, that the proportion of the revenue so collected was so large, and the habits of the people were so accustomed to that mode of taxation, it would be hopeless to expect to raise an adequate revenue for the necessary wants of the government in any other mode. Although I did not agree in the opinion as to the second argument, I could not deny at that time the fact that a very large proportion of the whole revenue was derived from duties on imports. This fact, however, has been materially altered during the last few years. I find, from the published reports, that in 1850, out of a total revenue of 15,641*l.*, the item of customs duties was 10,214*l.*, or in the proportion of nearly two-thirds of the whole. I have no statement before me of a more recent date than 1854; but I find, in that year, the amount raised by customs duties was 7,728*l.* out of the entire revenue of 15,266*l.*, or only one-half of the total income; and I find that the customs duties on import were still lower in 1855 than in 1854; so that, whilst the revenue has been nearly stationary, the part raised for customs has diminished by above 25 per cent.; or, in other words, that the customs duties produced in 1850 nearly 33 per cent. more than in 1854, and probably fully as much as 45 per cent. more than in 1855. On the other hand, I find that, whereas in 1850 the produce of assessed and other taxes was 5,427*l.*, in 1854 they produced 7,538*l.* Surely this fact is sufficient to call public attention to the consideration whether it might not be advisable to alter the present scheme of taxation. I have no documents to enable me to ascertain what is the expense attendant on the collection of customs duties; probably the expense in 1854, or at the present time, is not less than in 1850; and if so, the expense of collection bears now a far larger proportion to the net revenue than it did in 1850. If the expenditure of all kinds connected with the collection of customs revenue amounts to 900*l.* a year, the net revenue so raised is not now much above 6,000*l.* a year. Now, the point to which I wish to direct attention is, whether it might not be possible to substitute some kinds of direct taxation by which this sum of 6,000*l.* or even 7,000*l.* might be raised with greater benefit to the whole community.

To abolish all customs duties, and thus render all imports into the island perfectly free, would, as it appears to me, be productive of so much advantage to the whole population that I cannot believe there could be two opinions on the subject. No colony in the West Indies possesses greater advantages for encouragement of inter-colonial and other trade. The harbour of St. George's is, I believe, unrivalled, or certainly quite equal to that in any other West India colony, and there is no want of energy amongst the comparatively small mercantile community who are established in the island. The fact of the colony of Grenada being free to all comers, with every facility to receive and distribute the goods which might be attracted from Great Britain, America, and elsewhere, would induce, I should anticipate new establishments to enter into trade; and many now carrying on business have done so during late years, I believe, with reasonable success. The abolition of all duties on imports would so much reduce prices, that the working part of the population would find greater inducement to purchase articles, not only of general necessity, but even of comparative luxury; the supply would certainly keep pace with the increased demands, and not only would the trading community be placed in a more thriving position, but the working classes would find it more easy, with their present means, to supply themselves with many articles which are now scarcely brought under their notice. Every increase of wealth amongst the trading part of the community would tend to improve the substantial wealth and prosperity of the island. A successful merchant will be tempted, with present prices of freehold property, to invest his money either in land or houses, and improve whichever he purchased; and thus the whole property of the colony would be improved, and there would be greater means amongst the community from which the whole revenue required must be raised.

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The landed proprietors might be alarmed at the prospect of an increase of direct taxation; but it must be immaterial to the land owner whether he is taxed for the land he cultivates or for the articles he consumes in living or in the cultivation of the soil, provided he does not pay more in the whole. The labouring classes might also be alarmed at a prospect of an increase of direct or personal taxation; but, besides the diminished cost of imported commodities, they would be bound to consider, and it ought to be shown to them, how large a proportion of the whole revenue of the colony is now spent for their immediate benefit. The total expenditure of the government has been increased during the period I have referred to from somewhat under 16,000*l.* in 1850 to above 18,000*l.* in 1854, and I believe it has been still more largely increased since that date; and every item of increased expenditure is one in which the working classes have the most direct interest. The present income is inadequate for the real wants of those who have a right to look to the government to endeavour to improve, as far as practicable, their interests; I mean, to benefit the labouring classes. If this were properly explained to them, I cannot think that they would grudge a small increase of taxation, which, with the present means of earning a livelihood, they could well afford; and if they felt it onerous they could remove the burthen by a very small addition of that labour which they are so well able to afford, and which every planter would be only too happy to purchase.

The middle classes have the game in their own hands, if they will call upon those members whom they may send to represent their interests in the legislature to take the subject into their earliest and gravest consideration, and require them to devise such a scheme of taxation as may best be raised by internal assessments from every person who has the means at his command to enable him to contribute to the general welfare of the whole community. I have very little doubt but they would raise such an amount of revenue from direct sources as would enable them to abolish all customs duties, encourage trade free from taxation from all parts of the world, and greatly benefit every interest throughout the colony.

I have trespassed longer than I had intended. I will not, therefore, enter into any detail as to the precise mode of taxation which I would suggest; it must be, however, of a nature which would oblige all classes to contribute, and this, I think, would be done without imposing burthens on any man which he was not at the present moment well able to bear; and the tax-payer would not be inclined, I think, to find fault, after a very little experience, with a new system which would enable the government to raise a revenue, not only sufficient for its immediate wants, but calculated to stimulate habits of industry, and to encourage the education of the rising generation, without which I see little chance for any future amelioration of the working classes in Grenada.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

London, February 16, 1858.

THOMSON HANKEY.

Enclosure 3 in No. 14.

Enclosure 3
in No. 14.

Immigration Office, Grenada,
March 6, 1858.

SIR,

IN conformity with the Immigration Act, I beg leave to lay before your Excellency this my first general report on the Indian immigrants located in this island, and although their recent arrival and the paucity of their numbers can present but little matter for observation or comment, still, from the progress they have made and are making, some conclusions may be drawn as to their probable influence on the future destinies of the colony.

2. The first and only shipment as yet made to this island was received by the ship "Maidstone," Escott Commandet, from Calcutta, on the 1st of May last, and consisted of 203 male and 52 female adults, 15 boys and 6 girls (children), and 2 male and 5 female infants, in all 283 souls, of which 34 males and 12 females, one boy and two girls and 1 female infant, making a total of 50, have died, leaving 169 male and 40 female adults, 14 boys, 4 girls, 2 male and 4 female infants, in all 233 souls, still in the island.

3. The particulars are specified in three tabulated returns hereunto annexed, No. 1 giving the names of the deceased, their ages, and the dates and causes of death; No. 2 showing the estates on which the deceased were located, the number originally placed there, and the number now remaining; and No. 3 detailing the number first applied for, the number arrived and distributed, and the balance due, the additional number applied for since the last distribution, and the total now required, all up to the 31st December last, since which a few new applications have come in, not taken notice of in these returns.

No. 1. not
printed.
No. 2.
No. 3.

4. With respect to No. 1, your Excellency will notice that the cases were principally dysentery, diarrhoea, fever, and debility. The mortality was confined chiefly to those who were landed in a weak and emaciated state, many of whom never recovered to reimburse the estates any portion of the advances made on their behalf. Some died at the dépôt before distribution, some at the colony hospital after distribution, and some immediately on arrival at their destination. Other complaints have occurred, from which the individuals soon recovered; but no epidemic has broken out amongst them; and the majority have enjoyed good health, the prevailing sickness having arisen from seasoning fevers, chigoes, ulcers, &c., which now form the few remaining cases in hospital.

GRENADA.

5. On reference to No. 2, it will appear that the casualties which have occurred on the several estates are as follow :

			Lost.		Remain.
Grand Bacolet had	25	-	7	-	18
Hope	21	-	2	-	19
Crochin	13	-	2	-	11
Carriere	13	-	2	-	11
Conference	12	-	2	-	10
Belmont	13	-	4	-	9
Mount Reuil	17	-	2	-	13
Chambaud	14	-	3	-	11
Plain	15	-	2	-	13
Morne Perdue	13	-	1	-	12
La Fortune	13	-	1	-	12
Snell Hall	19	-	4	-	15
River Sallee	12	-	2	-	10
Marli	16	-	2	-	14
M ^r William	13	-	2	-	11
Du Quesne	13	-	1	-	12
Samaritan	13	-	1	-	12
Total	276	-	44	-	232
Add deaths in depôt previous to dis- tribution	6	-	6	-	—
Add 1 female with Interpreter Naza- reth	1	-	—	-	1
Grand total	283	-	50	-	233

6. The proportion of deaths to the total number imported (50 out of 283) is equal to 17.66 per cent. ; that of the sexes is, amongst the male, of adults 16.74 per cent., and female 23 per cent.; but a fair comparison can scarcely be made, inasmuch as there were so few women sent out, and those not of the best character.

7. They all died without leaving any property, save Bho-hey-derr, who died in the colony hospital leaving a gold finger ring, which he requested should be delivered to Bhurdoole, his son-in-law, on Samaritan estate, and which has accordingly been done, and Mr. Bothelho, one of the interpreters, who died on the 30th December last, leaving some wearing apparel valued at four pounds, and a quarter's salary due to him, whose affairs have been already particularly reported upon.

8. I am happy to state that their employers have paid every care and attention to their immigrants, supplied them on their arrival with clothing, and food for a month gratis, until they could earn wages, when they were at once put on the same footing as the native labourer with regard to the pay of the class in which they were able to work. The orphans, who were distributed amongst the rest, were tenderly looked after by the manager's family, and treated as one of the household. In sickness they were attended by the doctor and the hospital nurse, and medicine and nourishment supplied, and in difficult cases, when, from the paucity of medical practitioners, professional advice could not be readily obtained, the parties were sent to the colony hospital in St. George's, and the expenses defrayed by the estate.

9. Of the survivors it is also gratifying to report that they are doing well. Their employers are quite satisfied with them, and they with their employers. They all do field labour, and are considered good hands at weeding and cutting; and, although they cannot do as much as the native labourer, they perform their work much neater, and make up in quality what they lack in quantity. Very few have been able to turn out with the first class in "holing;" those who do obtain their full wages (10*d.* per day); the others are paid 8*d.* and 6*d.*, according to the class to which they belong; and all get 3*d.* for extra hours during crop, so that they can save money, and several allow a portion of their wages to remain in the hands of the managers. None of them have taken lands to cultivate as gardens on their own account, but they continue to be supplied on the estates with rice, fish, &c. at cost price, going to market occasionally to procure other things that they may require. Now that crop has commenced, they are found very useful in and about the works, feeding the mill, and carrying megass, &c., and they are delighted with the allowance of sweets, and the activity and stirring operations of the season, all appearing cheerful and happy.

10. There have been a few complaints for petty thefts and disorderly conduct; but only three cases were of magnitude enough to be adjudicated upon, namely, one on Snell Hall Estate against Lall Mahomed, for disobedience of orders and assault on his countrymen, and two on Grand Bacolet Estate, against Hausen Baccas and Jusbeer, for drunkenness and stealing poultry, in all which the parties were found guilty, and sentenced to one month's imprisonment with hard labor.

12. Upon the whole then it appears that the Coolie is likely to become a valuable addition to our peasantry, and a useful class of labourers to maintain the cultivation of the staple products, and thus eventually be made a benefit to the community at large; and while immigration may serve to stimulate

the native labourer to the exercise of greater industry, by the healthy competition it will excite, it will also appropriately fill the void that will be created when the native population will inevitably rise to a higher grade in society.

13. It will have struck your Excellency's notice, and it is apparent to every observant mind, that the emancipated class are reluctant to continue the avocations with which so many bitter associations are connected, and are fast seceding from labour on the sugar estates. They all, more or less, aspire to become "independent proprietors," and embrace every opportunity to purchase bits of freehold, in order to sever themselves from their connection with former masters. To these little homesteads they are panting to retire, to cultivate their own lands, and come out only occasionally to toil on the estates as necessity may compel or caprice dictate. They look with no jealous eye upon the Coolies; on the contrary, they hail his arrival with joy, and seem to regard him as the instrument destined eventually to release them from the necessity of daily manual labour.

14. The native labourer, whose growing independence, manifested in the "small patches of canes and little wooden mills here and there dotting the chequered plain around," the significance of which was so pointedly alluded to in the last Despatch of your Excellency's predecessor, has risen a step higher, and we now see him becoming the lessee of large sugar plantations regularly established, with all the usual appliances. As witness, for example, the lessee of Hope Vale Estate, containing 492 acres, with water mill and works complete; the lessee of Perseverance Estate, containing 522 acres, with steam engine and other apparatus complete; and the lessee of Mount Hardman, formerly a sugar estate, and lately a cattle farm, with 400 acres of pasture and wood, soon to be revived into its former state of flourishing luxuriance. True, these were abandoned properties belonging to absent and needy proprietors, who had not the means of keeping up the cultivation, and were glad to concede them on mere nominal terms; but in the course of time the properties will improve without any cost to the owners, while they furnish the means of profitable employment to and engage the enterprise of an aspiring class. It is cases like these that the more intelligent labourer is laying himself out for; and as he can manage more economically than his educated landlord, he spends less, and saves more; and when he cannot find a friend to assist him with pecuniary advances, he procures the physical help of his fellow labourers, and at harvest either shares the produce or remunerates them from the proceeds of the sale. Even the "old established hands" who find it difficult to struggle against the tide, are now emulating the despised "wooden mills," and gladly take the canes of their own labourers and neighbouring petty settlers, and manufacture them on the share system, in order to make up something like a return of produce on their ancient patrimony.

15. Such then, it appears, is the present state of circumstances affecting the staple product of the island, and bearing on the question of immigration to these shores. What may be the ulterior consequences, in the event of the landed interest becoming diffused and scattered into a thousand petty tenures, held by an uneducated or half-educated proprietary body, (and in a country where landed property is at a discount, and prædial labour at a premium, such a result is not difficult to imagine,) or how those consequences might be modified by a timely ingress of labouring hands in sufficient numbers to be felt is not for me here to predicate; but I feel it my duty to submit to your Excellency the all but universal opinion that, next to the African labourer, the Coolie immigrant is the best adapted to the climate and the wants of the country, and that unless immediate accession in sufficient numbers be made to our labouring population, in order to supply the fast failing resources of the agricultural interest, the progress of the country will, at no distant period, be sensibly impeded, and her happiness and prosperity seriously affected.

C. H. Kortright, Esq.,
Lieut.-Governor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SAML. COCKBURN,
Immigration Agent.

GRENADA.

Enclosure 4 in No. 14.

NUMERICAL RETURN of PRISONERS for the Year 1857 in the ISLAND of GRENADA, showing the Nature of Offences, &c.

Island.	Offences against the Person.												Offences against Property.												Total Number of Prisoners.
	Murder.	Sodomy or Attempt to commit the Offence.	Rape.	Concealing Birth of a Child.	Manslaughter.	Shooting with Intent to Kill.	Assault with Intent to do bodily Harm.	Cutting and Wounding.	Assaults.		Arson.	Perjury.	Burglary and Theft.	Forgery.	Uttering forged Cheques.	Obtaining Goods under false Pretences.	Larceny and Theft.	Receiving stolen Property.	Highway Robbery.	Stealing.	Misdemeanors and other Offences.				
Grenada -	1	1	5	1	1	1	1	2	1	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	27	8	39 Sentenced 1856. 146 Sentenced 1857. 185			

RETURN of PRISONERS for the Year 1857 in the ISLAND of GRENADA, showing the Amount of Imprisonment awarded or commuted, and whether with or without Hard Labour.

N.B.—Insert in the Columns below the Terms of Imprisonment.																				Total Number of Prisoners.	Remarks.
Island.	4 Years.		3 Years.		2 Years.		1 Year.		8 Months.		6 Months.		4 Months.		3 Months.		Under 3 Months.				
	With Hard Labour.	Without Hard Labour.	With Hard Labour.	Without Hard Labour.	With Hard Labour.	Without Hard Labour.	With Hard Labour.	Without Hard Labour.	With Hard Labour.	Without Hard Labour.	With Hard Labour.	Without Hard Labour.	With Hard Labour.	Without Hard Labour.	With Hard Labour.	Without Hard Labour.	With Hard Labour.	Without Hard Labour.			
Grenada - {	—	—	—	—	8	—	14	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	10	3	34 } 185		
	—	—	2	—	2	—	8	—	2	—	1	—	—	2	12	2	48	69	146 }		

ABSTRACT of PRISONERS under Sentence of Imprisonment in the ISLAND of GRENADA for the Year 1857.

Island.	Year.	Remarks.
Grenada	1857	Of these 39 were in Gaol on the 1st January 1857, continuing their Imprisonment from the year preceding.

HENRY SHARPE, Provost Marshal.

RETURN of the NUMBER of CIVIL CASES decided by the several Courts and by Magistrates in the ISLAND of GRENADA for the Year 1857.

I-land.	Above £500.	Under £500 and above £10.	By Courts.	By Magistrates.	Total Number of Cases decided.	No. of Debtors imprisoned in 1857.	Appeals from Magisterial Adjudication.			Remarks.
							No. of Judgments affirmed.	No. of Judgments reversed.	Total Number of Cases decided.	
Grenada	-	-	2	267	600	9	9	2	11	

WM. MITCHEL, Colonial Secretary.

RETURN of INDIAN IMMIGRANTS at GRENADA, showing the Number originally located on each Estate, the Deaths that have occurred, and the Number remaining up to 31st December 1857.

ESTATES.					Adult		Children.		Infants.		TOTAL.
					Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Male.	Female.	
1. Grand Bacolet	-	-	-	-	16	5	1	—	1	2	25
Died	-	-	-	-	4	2	—	—	—	1	7
Remain	-	-	-	-	12	3	1	—	1	1	18
2. Hope	-	-	-	-	17	2	1	1	—	—	21
Died	-	-	-	-	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
Remain	-	-	-	-	16	1	1	1	—	—	19
3. Crochue	-	-	-	-	10	2	1	—	—	—	13
Died	-	-	-	-	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
Remain	-	-	-	-	9	1	1	—	—	—	11
4. Carriere	-	-	-	-	10	2	1	—	—	—	13
Died	-	-	-	-	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Remain	-	-	-	-	8	2	1	—	—	—	11
5. Conference	-	-	-	-	8	2	2	—	—	—	12
Died	-	-	-	-	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
Remain	-	-	-	-	7	1	2	—	—	—	10
6. Belmont	-	-	-	-	10	2	—	1	—	—	13
Died	-	-	-	-	3	1	—	—	—	—	4
Remain	-	-	-	-	7	1	—	1	—	—	9
7. Mount Rose	-	-	-	-	17	3	—	—	—	1	21
Died	-	-	-	-	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
Remain	-	-	-	-	16	2	—	—	—	1	19
8. Mount Renil	-	-	-	-	11	3	3	—	—	—	17
Died	-	-	-	-	3	—	1	—	—	—	4
Remain	-	-	-	-	8	3	2	—	—	—	13
9. Chambord	-	-	-	-	10	3	—	1	—	—	14
Died	-	-	-	-	1	1	—	1	—	—	3
Remain	-	-	-	-	9	2	—	—	—	—	11
10. Plain	-	-	-	-	10	3	2	—	—	—	15
Died	-	-	-	-	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Remain	-	-	-	-	8	3	2	—	—	—	13
11. Mornefendue	-	-	-	-	10	3	—	—	—	—	13
Died	-	-	-	-	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Remain	-	-	-	-	9	3	—	—	—	—	12

GRENADA.

No. 2.—Return of Indian Immigrants at Grenada, showing the Number originally located on each Estate, &c.—*continued*.

ESTATES.						Adults.		Children.		Infants.		TOTAL.
						Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Males.	Females.	
12. Lafortune	-	-	-	-	-	10	2	—	1	—	—	13
	Died	-	-	-	-	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
	Remain	-	-	-	-	9	2	—	1	—	—	12
13. Snell Hall	-	-	-	-	-	10	4	2	1	1	1	19
	Died	-	-	-	-	2	1	—	1	—	—	4
	Remain	-	-	-	-	8	3	2	—	1	1	15
14. River Sallee	-	-	-	-	-	10	1	—	1	—	—	12
	Died	-	-	-	-	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
	Remain	-	-	-	-	9	—	—	1	—	—	10
15. Marli	-	-	-	-	-	10	3	2	—	—	1	16
	Died	-	-	-	-	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
	Remain	-	-	-	-	8	3	2	—	—	1	14
16. Mount William	-	-	-	-	-	10	3	—	—	—	—	13
	Died	-	-	-	-	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
	Remain	-	-	-	-	8	3	—	—	—	—	11
17. Duquesne	-	-	-	-	-	10	3	—	—	—	—	13
	Died	-	-	-	-	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
	Remain	-	-	-	-	9	3	—	—	—	—	12
18. Samaritan	-	-	-	-	-	10	3	—	—	—	—	13
	Died	-	-	-	-	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
	Remain	-	-	-	-	9	3	—	—	—	—	12
With the Interpreter, A. de Nazareth	-	-	-	-	-	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Grand Total remaining in the Island	-	-	-	-	-	169	40	14	4	2	4	233
Add Total Deaths, as per Return No. 1.	-	-	-	-	-	34	12	1	2	—	1	50
Total originally imported, per Maidstone, } on the 1st day of May 1857 - }	-	-	-	-	-	203	52	15	6	2	5	283

Grenada, 31 December 1857.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SAML. COCKBURN,
Immigration Agent.

No. 3.—RETURN OF APPLICATIONS FOR IMMIGRANTS since last Return, embracing the Half Year from 1st July to 31st December 1857.

No. of Estates.	No. of Applications.	Date.	Estates.	Proprietors and Mortgagees, &c.	Lessees.	Agents applying.	Parish.	Number applied for.	Number delivered.	No. remaining due on last Distribution.	No. shut out on last Occasion.	New Applications.	Total now required.	Remarks.
49	25	1837				Amount brought over from last return.		772	276	153	248	111	512	The Estates not numbered in the first column have already been served, and this is a second application in addition to what they have already had.
1	26	July 16	Mount Rich	Mrs. McInnes, and Major Graham.	None	Wm. Swan	St. Patrick	20	—	—	—	20	20	
1	27	" 17	Isle Rhonde	Jno. B. Belfon	"	J. B. Belfon	"	10	—	—	—	10	10	
—	28	October 19	Belmont	Sir. R. Houstown	"	C. Alexander	"	30	—	—	—	30	30	
—	—	"	Mount Rewil	C. Alexander	"	"	"	20	—	—	—	20	20	
—	—	"	River Saltee	Est. Geo. Paterson	C. Alexander.	"	"	30	—	—	—	30	30	
—	29	" 20	Snell Hall	Chaunee	None	Thos. Alexander	"	30	—	—	—	30	30	
—	—	"	La Fortune	"	"	for	"	25	—	—	—	25	25	
—	—	"	Mount William	"	"	"	"	20	—	—	—	25	25	
—	—	"	Duquesne	"	"	"	"	15	—	—	—	15	15	
—	—	"	Samaritan	"	"	Hall Alexander	"	15	—	—	—	15	15	
—	30	November 6	Mount Rose	J. Campbell, sen., & Co.	"	G. Merryweather	"	30	—	—	—	30	30	
1	31	" 16	Sagesse	Thomson Hankey & Co.	"	J. Langdon	St. David	30	—	—	—	30	30	
52	31						Total	1047	276	153	248	386	787	

Grenada, 31st December 1857. S. COCKBURN, Immigration Agent.

RENADA.

Consolidated from RETURN No. 2. of INDIAN IMMIGRANTS for the Year ending 31st December 1857.

TABLE A.

Number landed.							Number died before Distribution.							Number distributed.						
Adults.		Children.		Infants.		Total.	Adults.		Children.		Infants.		Total.	Adults.		Children.		Infants.		Total.
Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
203	52	15	6	2	5	283	4	2	—	—	—	—	6	199	50	15	6	2	5	277

TABLE B.

Name of District.	No. of Estates.	Number located in Parishes.							Deaths.	Remaining in District.						
		Adults.		Children.		Infants.		Total.		Adults.		Children.		Infants.		Total.
		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.			Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
St. Patrick - -	13	138	36	9	5	1	3	192	29	117	31	8	3	1	3	163
St. Andrew - -	5	61	13	6	1	1	2	84	15	52	8	6	1	1	1	69
Total - -	—	199	49	15	6	2	5	276	44	169	39	14	4	2	4	232
Interpreter's Wife -	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Grand Total -	—	199	50	15	6	2	5	277	44	169	40	14	14	2	4	233

TOBAGO.

TOBAGO.

No. 15.

No. 15.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor HINCKS to the Right Honourable
Sir E. B. LYTTON, Bart.

(No. 31.)

Windward Islands, Barbadoes, July 24, 1858.

(Received August 16, 1858.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the copy of a despatch from the Lieutenant
Governor of Tobago, being his report on the accompanying Blue Book for 1857.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) F. HINCKS.

Enclosure in No. 15.

Encl. in No. 15.

REPORT from Lieut.-Governor EYRE to Governor HINCKS.

(No. 43.)

SIR,

Government House, Tobago, June 10, 1858.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency the Tobago Blue Book for
1857 in duplicate, to which is annexed an abstract of its principal contents, and the annual
report of the inspector of prisons for this island.

Abstract
Returns.

Sub-Encl. 1.

2. In reporting upon the Blue Book for the last year, it affords me much satisfaction
to be able to speak favourably of the financial state and general prospects of the colony.

Finance.

3. On the 1st January there remained in the public treasury a balance of £ 1,864 s. 2 d. 0
The receipts during the year consisted of,—

	£	s.	d.
Arrears of taxes for 1855	-	-	-
" " 1856	-	-	-
Revenue of 1857	-	-	-
	53	5	7
	2,618	5	0
	9,498	4	6
	12,169	15	1
Total	14,033	17	1

The expenditure during the year, including balance of
£2,463 18 5 due for the preceding year, amounted to
leaving a balance in cash of - - -
together with uncollected revenue of about 276l. 0s. 0d.,
to meet the remaining liabilities of 1857 amounting
to - - -
and of former years - - -

	11,722	8	6½
	2,311	8	6½
	1,125	4	5½
	623	14	3
	1,748	18	8½
leaving a clear balance of	562	9	10
to which, if the amount paid in advance for the re- demption of treasury bills due only in 1858-1859, viz. - - -	1,376	0	0
be added, there will appear a real balance on the trans- actions of the year of	1,938	9	10

4. By the payment in anticipation of the treasury bills due only in 1858-1859, a
saving of 87l. 17s. 5d. was effected, and of this total amount of treasury debentures
2,752l. issued in 1856 to sustain the credit of the colony there remained at the close of
the year only a balance of 676l. which has since been further reduced

TOBAGO.

5. Of the original amount of the loan, 20,000*l.*, granted by the Imperial Government in 1849, there remained due to the Lords of the Treasury on the 31st December 1857 a balance of 10,000*l.* payable in ten annual instalments of 1,000*l.*, with interest at 3*l.* 5*s.* per centum per annum. Of the 10,000*l.* so due there is owing—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
by private borrowers	-	-	-	5,968	3	11
by the colony	-	-	-	2,664	0	0
Total	-	-	-	8,632	3	11
payable in nine annual instalments, and there remains—						
in cash	-	-	-	159	8	11
in treasury warrants	-	-	-	997	2	3
at debit of charges account	-	-	-	211	4	11
				1,367	16	1
Total	-	-	-	10,000	0	0

6. The following statement of the island finances at present compared with their condition at the end of 1855 will be found to exhibit marked evidence of progress and improvement :

<i>Estimated state on 31st December 1857.</i>				<i>Estimated state on 31st December 1855.</i>			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Balance of hurricane loan	- 9,002	17	9	Balance of hurricane loan	11,791	12	10
Balance of treasury debt	- 676	0	0	Local debts of the colony			
Debt in 1857	- 9,678	17	9	as estimated	- 7,171	4	3½
				Debt in 1855	- 18,962	17	1½

After payment of all liabilities to date, the accounts show a clear balance of 562*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.* in the treasury on the 31st December 1857.

			£	s.	d.
The debt on 31st December 1855 was	-	-	-	18,962	17 1½
Deduct the debt on 31st December 1857	-	-	-	9,678	17 9
					<hr/>
				9,283	19 4½
and add the cash balance	-	-	-	562	9 10
					<hr/>
				9,846	9 2½

and it will be apparent that the financial state of the colony has improved by the sum of 9,846*l.* 9*s.* 2½*d.* within the last two years.

An estimate made of the liabilities and presumed assets of the colony of Tobago for the quarter ending the 31st December 1855 showed that on the 30th September 1855 the known liabilities of the colony for warrants in circulation for salaries unpaid and other debt amounted to

To meet these liabilities the assets were, cash in treasury	-	295	12	11½
leaving a deficiency to meet on the 31st December 1855 of	-	6,117	16	3½
The estimated liabilities of the quarter to end 31st December 1855 were	-	3,133	8	0

making the gross liabilities to 31st December 1855	-	9,251	4	3½
to meet which the estimated revenue was only	-	2,080	0	0
showing an estimated balance against the colony on 31st December 1855 amounting to	-	7,171	4	3½

exclusive of the amount due to the Lords of the Treasury in respect of the hurricane loan.

7. I beg to append to this statement a copy of a financial report for 1857, prepared at my request by the members of the executive committee of government, and which was laid before the Elective Legislative Assembly at the opening of the session. Also the returns of revenue and expenditure, compiled by the treasurer according to the tabular form prescribed by the rules and regulations for Her Majesty's colonial service.

Sub-Encl. 2.

Sub-Encls.
3 and 4.

Imports and Exports.

8. Annexed is a return of the total valuation of the imports and exports of the colony in the years 1856 and 1857, to which is appended a statement of the quantities of sugar, rum, and molasses exported from the year 1827 to the year 1857, both inclusive.

Sub-Encl. 5.

Sub-Encl. 6.

9. There appears to have been but little difference in the estimated value of imports and exports for 1857, as compared with the preceding year; but neither of those returns show the real value of the produce shipped, the declaration of the shippers being in every case considerably lower than the rate current in the local market.

10. The quantity of sugar exported in 1857 was less than the shipments of 1856 by 19,051 cwts., owing to the loss of canes caused by the long duration of a very dry season in that year; but, notwithstanding that drawback, the crop was an average one compared with the preceding ten years. The crop now being taken off is expected at least to equal that of 1856.

Taxation.

11. For many years prior to my arrival in this island, it had been the invariable practice, often remonstrated against, but ever persisted in, to defer the consideration of the annual tax bill until towards the close of the year for the service of which the revenue to be raised was required.

12. The consequence, as might be expected, was a confusion of accounts, and often great difficulty and delay in satisfying the just claims of the public creditor.

13. On assuming the government I found that the session of the legislature had once more been allowed to expire without passing an Act granting to Her Majesty the necessary rates and taxes in aid of the ordinary revenue for the year; and so impressed was I with the necessity and expediency of at once remedying the evils caused by this delay, that I determined on convoking a special session for the purpose.

14. In my address to the Legislative Council and Elective Legislative Assembly I represented the inconvenience occasioned by the unnecessary delay in passing the annual tax bill. I urged upon their consideration that it was far from prudent that the public should incur debt before providing means for its liquidation; and that the passing of any Act intended to have a retroactive effect was highly objectionable in principle, and most impolitic in regard to financial measures, or any Act by which provision was to be made for the public expenditure.

15. To this appeal both houses cordially responded, acknowledging the propriety of having convened a special session, and concurring in the opinion that the necessary financial measures should be passed in time to permit their coming into operation at an early period of the year for the service of which the revenue was intended.

16. The Acts for raising a supply in aid of the revenue of 1857, and for appropriating the same, were duly passed; and before the close of the year I had the satisfaction of accomplishing my chief object, of providing in advance for the revenue and expenditure of the following year, 1858.

17. By those Acts a material change has been effected both in the amount of taxation and in the mode of raising and collecting the revenue.

18. In lieu of the tax of four shillings an acre upon cultivated land, and of sixpence upon uncultivated land, and the house tax, an assessment is now levied upon property based on the valuation roll prepared by commissioners duly appointed under the Act Vict. 19. cap. 14., entitled "An Act for the valuation of lands, tenements, and hereditaments in Tobago."

19. This Act has been passed for a period of five years, and is intended to serve as a basis for taxation and for the purposes of franchise.

20. The property tax or rate of assessment was in the Act for 1857 at 15 per cent. on the annual value of sugar estates and $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on all other properties in the roll.

21. It was subsequently considered that one uniform rate of assessment would be more in conformity to the spirit and intent of the property tax; and in the Act for 1858 it has been made seven and a half per cent. upon all descriptions of property. It is more easily collected than the land tax, and is not open to the many objections made against the latter.

22. Annexed to this report is an abstract of the valuation roll, showing the number of properties, their estimated annual value, and their relative taxation. The sugar producing estates have unquestionably been undervalued, and until this can be remedied by a revision of the valuation roll, and so long as one uniform rate of assessment is levied upon all, this description of property cannot be made to bear its proper proportion of the property tax, under which it now contributes one third to one half less than under the former land tax.

Sub-Encl. 7.

23. By those Acts considerable relief has been also afforded by the abolition of many obnoxious personal taxes on trades and professions, such as merchants and shopkeepers, barristers, notaries, medical practitioners, attornies, managers, and engineers. The taxes

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upon carriages, carts, and droghers have been also omitted; and greater facilities have been afforded to the tax-payers by the appointment of sub-collectors of taxes in the out-districts of the island, the efficiency of which system is established by the fact that on the 31st day of December 1856 there remained 2,758*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.* arrears of uncollected revenue, whilst at the same date in 1857 there was only an estimated balance of about 276*l.* of arrears then uncollected.

Public Works.

24. The following is a statement of the expenditure incurred in 1857 on account of the repair and maintenance of public buildings, the sum voted by the legislature for these purposes being 500*l.* sterling.

	£	s.	d.
Repairs of government house	280	1	2½
Do. at treasury	4	14	10
Do. at convict prison	12	10	6
Do. at Scarborough gaol	7	7	1
	304	13	7½

25. Contracts have been entered into for the thorough repair of the building styled the court-house in the town of Scarborough, at a cost of 1,150*l.* sterling, and measures have been taken to convert the military hospital at Fort King George into a common gaol, which will be a great improvement, the gaol at Scarborough having been long condemned as unfit and insufficient as a prison.

Roads.

26. The island is divided into seven road districts, to each of which "waywardens" are appointed annually by the justices of the court of Queen's Bench. The "waywardens" so appointed are subject to a penalty of ten pounds in case of refusal or neglect of duty, recoverable by information in a court of record.

27. All male inhabitants between the ages of 16 and 50 are bound to serve and perform "work and labour on the public roads and streets, either in his own proper person or by substitute," for which he is paid sixpence for every day's labour so given, under a penalty of 4*s.* for every day's neglect or refusal to perform such labour during the time it shall be so required of him.

28. The system has been in operation for eight years, but is generally acknowledged to be deficient in many respects, the compulsory labour so given being as in all such cases irregular and inefficient. The number of persons so employed in the repair of the public roads seldom exceeds 3,000, out of a population estimated at 15,679, of which about 4,000 may be reckoned as able-bodied males, liable under the road act, and the average number of actual day's labour, if it can possibly be so called, bestowed on the roads, may be computed at 13,500 in the course of twelve months, or 4½ days per man.

29. The public roads are, however, notwithstanding these drawbacks, tolerably well kept. In the dry season they may be called good, but during the heavy rains many of them are almost impracticable. They are in general well traced, but are by far too numerous for the labour available for their repair and maintenance. One real advantage of the existing system of compulsory statute labour must not be overlooked, and it is that it affords a means of obtaining the labour necessary for the repair of the roads either by personal service or by substitute for a comparatively small money payment; whereas under a system of hired labour for a higher remuneration it is doubtful if labour could at all be procured.

Annexed is a return of the annual cost of the repair of the public roads, which does not exceed 600*l.* sterling.

Legislation.

30. The attention of the legislature during the last year was principally directed to measures of finance, in regard to which a material improvement has been effected in respect to the mode of raising the revenue, and by providing in advance for the expenditure to be incurred during the next ensuing year. The importance of this reform cannot be over estimated.

31. The accounts of the colony had for many years previously been in a state of confusion, and the public finances in a state of embarrassment, from which they are now happily relieved.

Agriculture.

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32. Many causes combine to render it difficult to obtain reliable information in regard to the cost of cane culture and the manufacture of sugar.

33. Differences of soil, the want of continuous labour, the varied nature of the motive power employed in the manufactory, and the use of agricultural implements, such as the plough, all tend by their operation to make general statements under this head to a certain extent fallacious. So great indeed is the diversity arising from one or more of these causes combined, that in a communication on this subject addressed to me by one of the most experienced planters in the island, he remarks, "I have made a crop of 100 hds. as cheap as one of 50 hds., viz. as regards cutting, grinding, and manufacturing."

34. With a full knowledge of all these difficulties, I have endeavoured to collect the best information on matters of such interest; and I have inserted in the appendix to this report copies of three statistical returns furnished on my solicitation by gentlemen owners of considerable property, and known as most experienced practical planters.

Sub-Encls.
9, 10, and 11.

35. An analysis of return A. shows the estimated cost of growing and manufacturing the produce of an acre of canes, including cartage, packages, &c., &c., to be 8*l.* 7*s.* sterling, giving a return of one and a half hogsheads, or an average of 2,250 cwt. of sugar, at a cost of 7*s.* 5½*d.* per cwt., or only 6*s.* 7¾*d.* where the plough is used in cane cultivation.

36. Assuming the cost of manufacture to be the same in respect to return B., the result will be the same within a trifle. The cost of cultivation, according to return C., being estimated at one half, and assuming the cost of manufacture and the yield to be the same, the first cost of one cwt. of sugar would be reduced to 4*s.* 10*d.*

37. It will be observed that these calculations are based on the assumption that an acre of land produces only one hogshead and a half of sugar, and that each hogshead is taken to be 1,500 cwt. It is well known, however, that in many instances the proportion of sugar obtained from an acre of well-cultivated canes is much greater and the net weight of a hogshead of sugar considerably more than the estimate here given, and that consequently the original cost of production in such cases is proportionally less. There may certainly be other charges, such as interest on capital, replacement of stock, and maintenance of works, &c. &c., which ought to be taken into consideration; but no note has been taken of the value of the molasses and rum, which form no inconsiderable parts of an estate's crop, sufficient indeed sometimes to defray the entire current expenditure of the property for the cultivation and manufacture of the whole crop.

38. The Blue Book for 1855 I perceive was accompanied by returns of the estimated cost of sugar making, and 12*s.* 1½*d.* per cwt. is there stated as the actual cost of production; but this includes salaries of attornies, managers, overseers, &c. &c., and charges of every description, such as taxes, stock, &c.

39. The estimate I have here given has been made by practical planters residing on and managing their own estates, and is therefore free from the burden of paying attornies and other superfluous charges; but perhaps, making every allowance, and taking a just medium, I think that 8*s.* to 10*s.* per cwt. may be taken as the fair average cost under all circumstances, to which 20*s.* may be added for duty, freight, and other charges attending the sale of the produce in the British market, making the total cost of one cwt. of sugar at time of sale 28*s.* to 30*s.* sterling.

40. The plough has been long in use in this island, with great advantage in the preparation of cane land, but the hoe is more generally employed, owing to the hilly nature of the country. The cost of preparing an acre of land with the plough is estimated at about 20*s.* less than when the hoe is used.

41. The metairie system, or the culture and manufacture of canes for a share of the produce, prevails to a great extent in this island.

42. It was first resorted to some three or four years ago, as a means of arresting the total ruin of many estates whose proprietors were discouraged by the unremunerative prices in the home market, and who had resolved on the abandonment of their properties rather than incur further losses. By its adoption the partial cultivation of the estates was maintained, and the system has now become too deeply identified with the interests of the labourers to be set aside by those who readily availed themselves of its aid in the time of their embarrassment, but who would now desire to monopolize all the advantages resulting from the improved state of the country and the encouraging aspect of the market for colonial produce.

43. Adopted as it was, at a critical period, as a last resort, by parties neither of whom understood its real principle, metairie cultivation has never yet assumed a fixed and

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determined character as a system. In no case is it limited so as to separate the agricultural operation from the process of manufacture; they are invariably combined, and the advantage which would naturally result from a proper division of labour is invariably set at nought. In like manner there is no settled uniform plan of operations; the terms and conditions of contracts or agreements made with managers differ in details upon many estates, and it consequently has as yet been found difficult to govern their obligations by any recognized rule or practice. It has been suggested that metayer cultivation should be so far regulated by legislation that in the absence of any specific contract a line should be drawn between the proprietor, cultivator, and manufacturer, and that in the division of produce a distinct portion should be set apart for the manufacturer.

Sub-Encl. 12.

44. In two recent instances, on actions for breach of metairie contracts, his honour the chief justice decided that the relations between the owner of the estate and the metayer were that of landlord and tenant. I annex a short summary of the two cases, which will also serve to show the general tenour and nature of metairie contracts, and their mode of operation.

45. It is very common to hear cultivation by metairie decried and condemned as being calculated to arrest all attempts at improvement in tropical agriculture, and no doubt this is true to a very considerable extent. It cannot be denied that through the want of system and control there is a great waste of labour which had it been bestowed under proper direction of an intelligent and experienced planter might have been rendered far more productive, and that the same amount of organized hired labour would have added more to the produce of the country.

46. On the other hand, metairie cultivation has to a certain extent been profitable to Tobago. Many estates were saved by its adoption from utter abandonment, and many others, which without it would even now be unproductive, are profitably worked entirely on this system.

47. It affords a revenue to noncapitalist proprietors; it tends to establish a useful middle class of yeomanry; and it retains for the use of the peasantry a larger share of the soil; and labour produce than the mere pittance of plantation wages. To these may be added also, the not-unimportant consideration that the possession of such a direct interest in the soil, being in fact small farmers with growing crops on the ground, and holding, as most of them do, small freeholds of their own, the metayers must naturally desire to maintain the laws made for the protection of their property, and of the general peace and tranquillity of the country, with the prosperity of which their individual interest have become so identified.

48. In a colony such as this, where the labouring class, consisting entirely of emancipated negroes, so far outnumbered other classes of the community, and where, the military having been withdrawn, there exists no means of suppressing riot or disorder, save a few police constables, I am disposed to attach an importance to the prevalence of the metairie system, as conducive to internal security, which appears to have been altogether overlooked or disregarded hitherto.

49. The stake thus possessed by the more industrious of the labouring class is not confined to one locality or to a few estates. In 1855 only thirteen estates were known to be partially cultivated on the metairie system. In 1857 there was scarce an estate on which the share system had not been introduced to a greater or less extent, many of them, even some of the larger, being entirely worked by metayers.

50. One estate, consisting of 600 acres of land, is cultivated solely by metayers, making a crop last year of 130 hogsheads, and now taking off a crop expected to reach 180 hogsheads, of which the metayers received one-half, with a small proportion of the rum made during the crop. One man has already made his 17 hogsheads of sugar, and others have made ten, five, and under.

51. So generally, indeed, has this system become established, that, although I have not been able to procure exact information as to all the estates, I feel assured that at least one third of the whole island crop is the product of metairie industry.

52. There were 60 sugar estates in active operation in 1857. Of these, 36 were owned by resident and 24 by absentee proprietors. With two exceptions, of estates which are leased, all the properties of the resident proprietors are conducted under their own immediate direction or by managers under them. Seven of the estates belonging to absentees are cultivated under lease, the remaining 17 being worked under the charge of attorneys for the benefit of the absent owners.

53. In 1855, of 57 estates making sugar, 45 belonged to absentees, showing that in the space of two years no less than 21 properties have been transferred from absentee to resident owners, and that three additional estates have been since brought into cane cultivation.

54. Of the 60 sugar estates the motive power used in the manufacture may be classed as follows:

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Wind mills	-	-	-	-	10
Water mills	-	-	-	-	21
Steam do.	-	-	-	-	18
Steam and wind	-	-	-	-	4
Steam and water	-	-	-	-	1
Cattle mills	-	-	-	-	6

 60

55. The rate of wages paid to day labourers is not sufficient to encourage them to bestow their continuous labour in estate work; the inducements held out by metairie cultivation are much greater, and consequently hired labour is obtainable with difficulty, and is only given in a desultory and capricious manner. Yet the labouring class of this island cannot be characterised an idle set of people; on the contrary, I look upon them as being far more industrious than others of their class in some of the other islands.

56. As I have before remarked, many of them are metayers, a great number are possessed of freeholds, and all of them have good provision grounds. If they do not give all their time to estate work, it is no doubt because they find it more advantageous to bestow their labour elsewhere, or otherwise, but it cannot be said to be for the mere love of idleness.

57. There can be no doubt that more labour is wanted for the effective working of a large sugar plantation, and that immigration, even were the means of securing more continuous and regular labour on estates, would be highly advantageous.

Education.

58. The importance of encouraging the education of the children of the native population has long been recognized in this island, and the legislature has at all times freely contributed towards the support of churches and the maintenance of schools, more than the one-sixth of the total revenue of the island being appropriated to these purposes.

59. In the cause of education, the members of the United Brethren take the most prominent lead, and their constantly augmenting efforts are attended by corresponding results, as shown by the progressive increase in the number of pupils of both sexes attending the schools at their establishments.

60. The Wesleyan schools rank next in regard to the number of scholars; and the Church of England, although more numerous than those of the Moravians, and about equal in number to those of the Wesleyans, exhibit much less favourable returns in respect to attendance or efficiency.

61. In all the schools moderate fees are paid by the children attending. In the case of the Moravian schools, those fees are paid always in advance, and average from 1s. to 2s. per quarter, and the establishments are almost self-supporting. In general the teachers are very inadequately remunerated, and, with few exceptions, are little qualified for their avocations.

62. A good school for the education of the middle class is much wanted; but I am sorry to say that an attempt to establish such an institution completely failed, and the teacher, an educated trained schoolmaster from the National Irish School Establishment, died a few months ago.

63. Annexed are returns of the attendance at churches and schools, showing the centesimal proportion to the estimated island population to be respectively 41·3 and 11·85, a much larger proportion in both cases than appears from the statistical returns of either Grenada, St. Vincent, or St Lucia.

Sub-Encls.
13 and 14.

64. The island is divided into three benefices or cures, and there are three rectors and one curate of the Church of England, three Moravian missionaries and two Wesleyan clergymen, besides several local preachers of the same society. They are zealous in the performance of their respective duties, and are much respected by all.

Prisons and Prisoners.

65. The annual report of the inspector of prisons, and the annexed return of crimes and offences prepared by the acting provost marshal, exhibit a remarkable diminution in the number of convict prisoners, the total number of prisoners at the end of the year being only twelve, including two debtors, two prisoners for trial, and one for want of sureties to keep the peace.

Sub-Encl. 15.

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66. Measures are now in progress for the conversion of the military hospital at Fort King George into a common gaol, and which when completed will enable me to dispense with the long-condemned gaol of Scarborough, other than as a police station and place for the temporary confinement of offenders taken into custody by the police.

General Remarks.

67. I have little to add to the foregoing observations on the principal topics adverted to in the Blue Book for the last year. The statistical tables and returns to which reference has been made sufficiently indicate the improved financial state of the colony, with an increased revenue under diminished taxation, advantages which have been gained without in any way impairing the efficiency of the public service, the parliamentary grants for ecclesiastical and educational purposes, as well as those for the repairs of the public highways and for the maintenance of the poor, having been all maintained or augmented, whilst liberal provision at the same time has been made by the legislature for the execution of public works long required.

68. The sanitary condition of the island has been good; the peace and general tranquillity of the colony has been undisturbed; cultivation and the manufacture of the staple product has been extended, under the encouraging prospect of an improved and remunerative market; and crime has diminished, under the beneficent influence of education and enlightenment.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. V. DRYSDALE, Lieut.-Governor.

ABSTRACT RETURNS from the Blue Book for 1854, 1855, 1856, and 1857.

Revenue.

Year.	Customs Duties.			Assessed and other Taxes.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Import.	Export.	Tonnage.				
1854	£ 3,729	£ —	£ 271	£ 4,014	£ 8,014	£ —	£ 2,836
1855	3,509	—	312	4,760	8,581	567	—
1856	5,600	66	414	4,465	10,545	1,964	—
1857	5,716	59	313	6,081	12,169	1,624	—

Expenditure, Colonial.

Year.	Civil Government.	Judicial.	Ecclesiastical.	Educational.	Other Expenditure.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
1854	£ 2,529	£ 607	£ 722	£ 337	£ 1,803	£ 8,014	£ —	£ 2,759
1855	2,042	650	922	84	4,049	7,747	—	267
1856	1,583	1,170	1,446	503	7,869	12,571	4,824	—
1857	2,261	800	948	459	5,490	9,958	—	2,613

Expenditure, Local and Parochial.

Nil.

Expenditure, Great Britain.

Year.	Civil	Military.	Total.	Remarks.
1854	£ 2,990	£ —	£ 2,990	No troops stationed in the island.
1855	2,340	Nil	2,340	One stipendiary magistrate retired on a pension of 150 <i>l.</i> , 8th June 1857.
1856	2,340		2,340	
1857	2,087		2,087	

This Expenditure includes the Salaries of the Lieut.-Governor, the Stipendiary Magistrates, and Deputy Postmaster-General.

Population.

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Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Remarks.
	Estimated.	Estimated.	Estimated.	
1854	7,430	7,775	15,205	The population according to the last census in June 1851 was 14,378.
1855	7,430	7,775	15,205	
1856	7,456	7,937	15,393	
1857	7,599	8,080	15,679	

* White population about 140 souls.

Land.

Year.	Area in Square Miles.	Average under Cultivation.	Remarks.
1854	97 square miles, or 62,080 acres.	Estimated at 7,800.	The quantity cultivated as provision grounds cannot be ascertained.
1855		Estimated at 2,580 in canes.	
1856		Estimated at 2,700 in canes.	
1857		Estimated at 2,800 in canes.	

Coins and Currency.

Year.	Specie in Circulation.	Notes in Circulation.	Remarks.
1854	The Amount is unknown.	Notes of the Colonial Bank, perhaps 200 <i>l.</i> or 300 <i>l.</i>	There is no bank in Tobago.
1855			
1856			
1857			

Churches.

Year.	Church of England.	Other Denominations.	No. of Sitzings.	Average Attendance.	Centesimal Proportion to the Population.	Remarks.
1854	7	9	7,350	6,335	41·6	7 Wesleyan and 3 Moravian chapels.
1855	7	9	7,350	6,335	40·9	
1856	7	10	7,600	6,392	41·5	
1857	7	10	7,600	6,480	41·3	

Schools.

Year.	Church of England.	Other Denominations.	Total No. of Scholars.	Centesimal Proportion to the Population.	Remarks.
1854	443	1,485	1,928	12·6	—
1855	377	1,514	1,891	12·4	
1856	344	1,291	1,535	9·97	
1857	436	1,424	1,860	11·85	

*Imports.**Exports.*

VALUE IN STERLING.

Year.	From Great Britain.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Total.	To Great Britain.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1854	16,751	33,002	2,554	52,307	49,642	112	—	49,754
1855	10,373	25,195	1,792	37,360	44,794	2,593	—	47,387
1856	20,992	38,392	610	59,994	70,226	9,553	10	79,789
1857	18,324	39,049	3,051	60,424	63,231	12,824	67	76,122

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Shipping.

INWARDS.					OUTWARDS.			
Year.	From Great Britain.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Total.	To Great Britain.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1854	2,913	2,490	424	5,827	2,913	2,490	424	5,827
1855	3,007	1,775	40	4,822	2,640	2,183	48	4,871
1856	3,814	3,069	210	7,093	3,678	2,753	210	6,641
1857	2,966	2,365	822	6,153	2,836	2,114	409	5,359

Crimes and other Offences.

Year.	Felonies.	Misdemeanors.	Other Offences.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.	Centesimal Proportion.	Debtors.
1854	22	77	45	144	—	49	·94	14
1855	7	58	52	117	—	27	·76	10
1856	5	57	24	86	—	31	·55	5
1857	5	41	18	64	—	22	·40	10

Sub-Enclosure 1.

SIR,

Tobago, 31st December 1857.

1 & 2 Vict.
c. 67.

IN terms of the Imperial Act "for the better regulation of prisons in the West Indies," I have the honour to report as to the Common Gaol at Scarborough and the "Tobago Convict Prison."

I.—Common Gaol at Scarborough.

Prisoners in this gaol are chiefly,—

1. Persons convicted of minor offences.
2. Committed for trial.
3. Debtors.

In convictions for petty thefts I learn that the prisoner is occasionally transferred to the "Tobago convict prison," under the sanction, I presume, of the Lieutenant-Governor.

This prison is in as cleanly and orderly a condition as circumstances admit of.

Of late there have been but few prisoners. At this date the numbers are,

Convicted of minor offences:—

Committed for want of securities to keep the peace	-	-	-	-	1
Committed for trial at Queen's Bench	-	-	-	-	2
" for debt	-	-	-	-	2

Total - - - - 5

II.—The Tobago Convict Prison.

This gaol is satisfactorily conducted. The following table exhibits the number of convicts and their offences as on 1st January and 31st December 1857:—

Crimes.

	Murder.	Unnatural.	Rape.	Larceny.	Cutting and wounding.	Conspiracy.	Sheep-stealing.	Forgery.	Total.
Number of convicts:									
1st January 1857	1	1	1	7	1	1	2	—	14
31st Dec. "	1	1	—	2	2	1	—	1	8
Increase	-	-	-	-	1	—	—	1	2
Decrease	-	-	1	5	—	—	2	—	8
Decrease on the year 1857	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6

During the year (1857), therefore, there has been a considerable diminution in the number of convict prisoners (about 57 per cent.), which I chiefly attribute to the fact that those Barbadians who used to crowd our gaols have left or are leaving the colony.

There is also in this gaol a prisoner convicted of petty theft, and transferred from the common gaol.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. CHILD,
Inspector of Prisons.

TOBAGO.

Sub-Enclosure 3.

RETURN, in a Tabular Form, for the last Year in which they can be made up, of the Gross Revenue under their different Heads, exhibiting the Cost of Collection, and any Deductions made in their Progress to the Public Treasury.

GROSS REVENUE.

Customs.	Tonnage, Port, and Harbour Dues.	Taxes and Excise.	Fines and Forfeitures.	Fees of Office.	Lighthouse Dues.	Land, Casual and Territorial.	Canals and Public Works.	Immigrant Tax.	Interest.	Miscellaneous Receipts.	Gross Amount of Revenue.	Cost of Collection.
Imports - £ s. d. 5,715 13 4	£ s. d. 312 13 6	Arrears of 1855 £ s. d. 2,671 10 7 and 1856 - 3,102 11 6 1857 -	£ s. d. 127 5 10	NIL	£ s. d. 67 8 0	NIL	£ s. d. 49 11 2	NIL	NIL	£ s. d. 63 16 0	£ s. d. 12,169 15 1	£ s. d. 520 5 2½
Exports - £ s. d. 59 5 2		Total - 6,774 2 1										

(Signed) CHAS. A. BERKELEY, Treasurer.

Sub-Enclosure 4.

RETURN, in a Tabular Form, for the last Year in which they can be made up, of the Disbursements under their different Heads, showing the Authority under which such Disbursements were made.

EXPENDITURE.

Civil Establish-ment and Salaries of Public Officers.	Judicial Estab-lishment.	Ecclesiastical.	Education.	Military and Fortification.	Militia.	Pensions.	Police and Gaols.	Roads and Bridges.	Works and Build-ings.	Lighthouses.	Expenses of the Legislature.	Poor.	Hospitals, Lunatic Asylums, and other charitable Institutions.	Printing and Stationery.	Interest on Debts.	Immigration.	Drawbacks, &c.	Harbours, Piers, Wharfs, &c.	Miscellaneous.	Total Expendi-ture.	Authority.
£ s. d. 2,048 17 7	£ s. d. 800 0 0	£ s. d. 948 10 2	£ s. d. 469 4 9	NIL	NIL	£ s. d. 42 2 4	£ s. d. 1,510 9 ¼	£ s. d. 540 3 1	£ s. d. 500 0 0	£ s. d. 46 3 11	£ s. d. 225 2 0	£ s. d. 112 10 0	NIL	£ s. d. 212 0 0	£ s. d. 2,076 0 0	Principal Interest 186 8 0	NIL	£ s. d. 22 19 9	£ s. d. 278 3 7	£ s. d. 9,368 14 7	Appropria-tion Act, 1857.

The above amount of 9,988. 14s. 7d. includes, not only the actual payments in 1857 for that year, but also the amount of warrants drawn for that year, and not called for till subsequently to the 31st December 1857, viz., 700l. 4s. 5d.

Actual payments to the 31st December 1857
Paid since (Warrants, 1857)

£ s. d.
9,288 10 3
700 4 5
9,988 14 7

Actual Expenditure for 1857

(Signed) CHAS. A. BERKELEY, Treasurer.

Sub-Enclosure 5.

TOTAL VALUE in Sterling of the IMPORTS and EXPORTS of the Colony of TOBAGO, in the Years 1856 and 1857.

1856.						1857.					
COUNTRIES.		Imports therefrom.		Exports thereto.		COUNTRIES.		Imports therefrom.		Exports thereto.	
		£	s. d.	£	s. d.			£	s. d.	£	s. d.
United Kingdom	- -	20,992	0 0	70,226	0 0	United Kingdom	- -	18,324	0 0	63,231	0 0
British West Indian Colonies		36,302	0 0	9,553	0 0	British West Indian Colonies		37,650	0 0	12,640	5 0
British North America	-	2,090	0 0	0	10 0	British North America	-	1,399	0 0	184	0 0
Holland	- - -	355	0 0	—		Holland	- - -	16	0 0	—	
United States of America	-	255	0 0	—		United States of America	-	3,035	0 0	—	
Danish West Indies	-	—		10	0 0	Danish West Indies	-	—		66	15 0
Total	- -	59,994	0 0	79,789	10 0	Total	- -	60,424	0 0	76,122	0 0

The small amount of difference between the total values of imports in 1856 and 1857 renders any remark from the treasurer unnecessary.

The exports in 1857 fell considerably short in quantity of the preceding year, but the values were considerably increased in 1857.

(Signed) CHAS. A. BERKELEY, Treasurer.

Sub-Enclosure 6.

RETURN of SUGAR, RUM, and MOLASSES exported from the Island of TOBAGO, from the Year 1827 to the Year 1857, both inclusive.

YEARS.	SUGAR.						RUM.				MOLASSES.	
	Hogs-heads.	Tierces.	Half Tierces.	Barrels.	Average Weight.	Cwts.	Puns.	Hogs-heads.	Two Casks.	Gallons.	Puns.	Cwts.
1827	5,264	427	—	96	15½ cwt. per hogshead.	86,054	3,886	88	—	362,440	144½	1,590
1828	8,490	517	—	193		137,131	5,418	112	—	504,731	828	9,108
1829	7,480	325	—	123		119,436	4,204	116	—	393,264	217½	2,393
1830	6,611	526	—	108		107,946	4,226	208	—	400,440	67½	743
1831	8,234	575	—	224		133,825	5,275	109	26	492,132	173	1,903
1832	7,742	546	—	273		126,007	3,660	20	17	337,916	1,637½	18,013
1833	6,374	555	—	278		104,965	2,955	55	—	273,290	1,531	16,841
1834	5,392	470	—	223		88,722	2,875	130	—	271,780	1,181	12,991
1835	5,058	574	—	477		85,093	3,289	152	—	311,098	549	6,039
1836	7,396	620	—	813		122,462	3,903	295	4	375,876	1,295	14,245
1837	5,836	625	—	651		98,010	3,377	252	9	325,048	944½	10,390
1838	4,580	504	—	395		76,820	2,539	187	13	244,422	644	7,084
1839	5,005	511	—	439		83,565	2,821	122	—	266,364	540	5,940
1840	3,804	250	—	373		62,208	1,850	81	—	174,736	437½	4,813
1841	2,467	225	—	222		40,932	1,064	53	—	100,856	244	2,684
1842	2,887	375	—	455		49,408	1,411	83	—	134,460	451½	4,967
1843	3,073	425	20	427		52,845	1,147	71	25	110,200	868½	9,554
1844	3,404	417	—	534½		58,001	1,226	109	10	119,176	1,357	14,927
1845	3,645	508	43	612		63,037	1,624	128	33½	157,514	699	7,689
1846	2,660	320	24	435½		45,433	1,178	50	12	111,512	436	4,796
1847	4,075	601	40	1,450½		72,293	2,195	1,091	32	263,932	518	5,698
1848	2,922	571	25	1,103½		53,345	1,489	36	46	140,292	195½	2,151
1849	3,050	560	31	1,709		56,464	1,266	68	4	120,392	550	6,050
1850	2,489	601	22	1,510½		47,731	1,228	28	5	114,684	310	3,410
1851	2,787	771	59	2,641½		56,415	1,436	43	3	134,604	142	1,562
1852	3,382	762	63	3,246		66,879	1,600	31	3	149,020	137½	1,510
1853	2,746	713	42	3,235½		56,395	1,484	33	—	138,374	137	1,507
1854	2,521	576	77	2,293		49,844	1,649	96	—	157,084	75	825
1855	2,103	460	328	1,670		41,791	1,227	72	8	116,740	42	462
1856	3,039	1,293	93	3,301		67,147	1,844	114	3	176,116	219	2,299
1857	2,199	759	71	3,016		48,096	1,091	71	15	104,796	215	2,257

(Signed) CHAS. A. BERKELEY, Treasurer.

TOBAGO.

Sub-Enclosure 7.

ABSTRACT OF THE VALUATION ROLL,

Under the Act 19 Vict. cap. 4., entitled "An Act for the Valuation of Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments in Tobago."

Number of Properties valued.	Under 1l.	1l. to 2l.	2l. to 3l.	3l. to 4l.	4l. to 5l.	5l. to 6l.	6l. to 7l.	7l. to 8l.	8l. to 9l.	9l. to 10l.	10l. to 15l.	15l. to 20l.	20l. to 30l.	30l. to 40l.	40l. to 50l.	50l. to 100l.	100l. to 150l.	150l. to 200l.	200l. to 250l.	250l. to 300l.	Grand Total.
Town of Scarborough	—	18	37	29	10	11	16	7	7	4	27	10	21	11	7	8	—	1	—	—	—
" Plymouth	—	24	10	41	23	10	8	6	4	1	6	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Parish of St. Andrew	2	123	115	64	50	40	16	3	9	3	21	6	14	12	3	4	2	2	—	1	—
" St. George	—	111	139	69	21	11	6	1	2	—	1	—	2	—	1	5	4	—	1	1	—
" St. Mary	3	35	45	24	8	2	2	1	1	1	5	1	2	—	—	1	3	—	1	—	—
" St. John	1	2	17	1	7	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	3	2	—	—	—	—
" St. Paul	4	21	83	16	11	3	1	—	3	1	5	3	2	—	—	1	3	—	1	1	—
" St. Patrick	—	103	151	80	33	6	2	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	1	2	6	1	2	1	—
" St. David	—	173	224	101	43	10	9	2	3	1	5	5	5	2	—	5	7	3	1	1	—
Total	10	610	821	425	206	93	61	20	29	11	72	27	52	27	12	29	27	7	6	5	2,550

£ s. d.

£ s. d.

Total number of properties returned, 2,550.

Sixty sugar estates valued

Other properties valued

Total annual valuation on the return

Highest valuation of a sugar estate

Lowest ditto

Highest valuation of other property

Lowest ditto

Average assessment on sugar estates

Ditto on other properties

£ 280, tax 7½ per cent.

50,

150,

1,

ditto

ditto

21 0 0

3 15 0

11 5 0

0 1 6

9 11 1½

0 3 8½

Sub-Enclosure 8.

RETURN of the AMOUNT paid for LABOUR in repairing the PUBLIC ROADS of the ISLAND of TOBAGO, with the cost of Materials, Superintendence, &c., and number of Labourers employed in each Parish, during the Year ended 31st December 1857.

Details of Expenditure.	Parish of St. Andrew, including the Town of Scarborough.	Parish of St. Patrick.	Parish of St. David.	Parish of St. George.	Parish of St. Mary.	Parish of St. Paul.	Parish of St. John.	General Totals.	Road expenditure for seven years ending 31st December 1857.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Paid to labourer at 6d. per diem	63 2 6	64 15 6	142 0 3	29 0 6	18 3 0	10 8 6	11 1 0	338 11 3	1851 - - 600 0 0
Masons and other labourers em- ployed in repairing drains and mending bridges - - -	17 11 0	- - -	0 3 0	- - -	- - -	1 0 0	2 14 0	21 8 0	1852 - - 505 2 9
Cost of materials, lime, lumber, nails, &c. - - -	17 19 2	- - -	1 2 6	- - -	- - -	1 9 9	4 2 6	24 13 11	1853 - - 669 17 7
Pay of constables summoning labourers and superintending the labour - - -	20 14 0	7 7 0	21 1 6	4 7 0	2 14 0	1 7 0	4 10 0	62 0 6	1854 - - 240 0 2
Cartage - - -	32 14 6	10 12 0	15 10 0	3 0 0	11 6 0	4 14 0	- - -	77 16 6	1855 - - 348 11 2
Repairing the military road - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	1856 - - 719 12 3
	152 1 2	82 14 6	179 17 3	36 7 6	32 3 0	20 19 3	22 7 6	526 10 2	1857 - - 540 3 1
Total - - - £									£3,623 7 0
									Average yearly expenditure - £517 12 5

Number of labourers employed at 6d. per diem - - -	467	493	1,327	184	331	224	85	3,111	Estimated number of miles of public roads - - - 97
Number of days employed - -	2,525	2,589	5,680½	1,161	726	417	442	13,540½	Average annual cost of repairs per mile for seven years - £5 6 8½
Average number of days em- ployed per man - - -	5 3½	5 2½	4 2½	6 2½	2 1½	1 7½	5 1½	4 3½	

(Signed) ALBERT J. ALLOM,
Colonial Secretary.

TOBAGO.

Sub-Enclosure. 9.

ESTIMATED COST of the Cultivation and Manufacture of Sugar by the Hoe from one acre of land in the Windward District.

	£	s.	d.
1. Brushing and clearing light land by six men at 8d.	-	0	4 0
2. Making piggots and lining for 28 holing	-	0	2 10
3. Holing, 30 hoes, including superintendent and water carriers, at 9d.	-	1	2 6
4. Carting manure, 16 people at 9d.	-	0	12 0
5. Cleaning drains, 3 men at 9d.	-	0	2 3
6. Holing, 250 holes each, 12 people at 9d.	-	0	9 0
7. Throwing out farmyard manure, 200 each, 14 at 6d.	-	0	7 0
8. Cutting plants, 6 at 8d.	-	0	4 0
9. Carrying plants, 6 at 8d.	-	0	4 0
10. Planting canes, 10 at 8d.	-	0	6 8
11. Weeding and supplying plants, 1st tem., 16 at 8d.	-	0	10 8
12. Ditto 2d „ 12 at 8d.	-	0	8 0
13. Ditto 3d „ 12 at 8d.	-	0	8 0
14. Trashing, 5 at 8d.	-	0	3 4
15. Cutting canes, 15 at 9d.	-	0	11 3
16. Carting canes to mill, 4 men at 1s.	-	0	4 0
17. Grinding canes, nine of a mill gang at 10d.	-	0	7 6
18. 4 boilermen, 2 firemen, and 3 megass carriers at 1s.	-	0	9 0
19. Potting sugar	-	0	1 0
20. Empty hogsheads	-	1	0 0
21. Ramming and heading up and carting to bay	-	0	10 0
		8	7 0

The above is an estimation at which I would not undertake to do it, although it is what we should have but seldom got.

The average yield over a whole crop may be fairly estimated at $1\frac{1}{2}$ hhd. per acre.

It will be observed that the tear and wear of implements and stock form no part of the above calculation, nor the labour expended in making manure, which is considerable, neither is the putting or chopping of tops and grass for the stock put down, or the Creole drying megass for fuel, or the jobbers cutting bamboos for the same purpose. Estimated cost of the cultivation and manufacture of sugar by the plough from one acre of land less than the hoe by 18s. 4d., say 7l. 8s. 8d.

The plough cannot be used to advantage to windward until the number of open drains are greatly reduced by either thorough or tile drains. At present the cleaning out of the drains after the plough is attended with a great loss of labour.

Sub-Enclosure 10.

MEMORANDUM.

	£	s.	d.
1. Brushing an acre of land	-	0	10 0
Holing an acre of land	-	1	1 4
Landing out and carrying plants	-	0	8 0
Drilling and planting	-	0	10 0
Carting out dung and manuring (say 2,722 good sized baskets per acre), without the expense of stock	-	0	18 0
Weeding an acre of land, say four times	-	1	16 0
		5	3 4
2. Deduct holing an acre of land	-	1	1 4
		4	2 0

I have seen grubbers used in this district, but without the advantages ascribed to them in the cultivation of the cane.

3. You do not inquire the cost of grinding, whether by steam, water, or wind mill power. The cost entailed upon an estate entirely dependent upon wind proves sometimes very heavy. I have seen such a mill in operation for a week, and grind canes sufficient to make a tierce of sugar.

The cost of cutting canes depends very much upon their quality. In good canes nine labourers can cut and tie up sufficient to make more than a hogshead, whilst in thin ratoons twice the number could not do so.

I have made a crop of 100 hogsheads as cheap as one of 50 hogsheads, viz., as regards cutting, grinding, and manufacturing.

4. In 1836 the return from plant canes in this district averaged from two, three, to even four hogsheads. The seasons have, however, changed very much to the disadvantage of cultivation. One hogshead per acre from plants mixed with ratoons is not considered bad. I believe that in this district during last crop not more than half a hogshead was realized from an acre of land.

Sub-Enclosure 11.

TOBAGO.

ACCOUNT of EXPENSES incurred in establishing a Plant for Crop 1859 on Mount Irvine Estate, Tobago.

No. 3.—12½ acres.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
Brushing the whole field, at 6s. the acre		-	-	-	3	15	0	
A.	Close ploughing and making cane holes with the plough on 8½ acres of this field	-	-	-	8	15	0	
	Cross-holing the same, 8½ acres	-	-	-	2	10	8	
	Throwing out manure on the same	-	-	-	2	5	7	
	Covering the manure	-	-	-	1	1	9	
	Cutting plants for the same	-	-	-	0	4	0	
	Planting them	-	-	-	1	11	2	
					16	8	2	{ or 1l. 17s. 6d. per acre.
B.	Digging 2½ acres (cane holes 4 feet square)	-	-	-	2	8	8	
	Cutting plants	-	-	-	0	3	4	
	Planting them	-	-	-	0	15	0	
					3	7	0	{ or 1l. 6s. 9½d. the acre.
Digging 1½ acres (cane holes 5 feet square)		-	-	-	1	1	9	
Cutting plants for the same		-	-	-	0	0	7	
Planting them		-	-	-	0	4	5	
					1	6	9	{ or 1l. 1s. 4½d. per acre.
No. 8.—5½ acres.								
Stumping out guinea grass		-	-	-	3	1	1	
Digging cane holes (4 feet square)		-	-	-	6	9	0	
Cutting plants		-	-	-	0	7	4	
Planting them		-	-	-	1	16	0	
					11	13	5	
No. 13.—17 acres.								
Brushing the field, at 6s. the acre		-	-	-	5	2	0	
Ploughing 7 acres		-	-	-	7	13	0	
Cross-holing 4 acres		-	-	-	1	5	9	
Digging 10 acres		-	-	-	12	13	0	
Planting the whole field (17 acres)		-	-	-	5	2	0	
Cutting the plant		-	-	-	1	2	8	
					32	18	5	
No. 10.—6 acres.								
Brushing the field		-	-	-	2	2	0	
Digging cane holes		-	-	-	7	10	8	
Cutting the plants		-	-	-	0	9	4	
Planting them		-	-	-	2	10	2	
					12	12	2	
Carting plants during the whole season, say one mule cart, 30 days, at 8d.		-	-	-	1	0	0	
Carting manure		-	-	-	1	11	8	
Drivers and water carriers		-	-	-	6	13	0	
Total expense of establishing 41 acres		-	-	-	91	5	7	

The 8 acres of No. 3. indicated on the other side by A. have been twice worked with the grubber in the month of January, at an expense for each grubbing of 1s. 10d. the acre.

The annexed return exhibits the expense incurred in making certain experiments, with the view to the substitution of an improved system of agriculture for that now in use in the island of Tobago:—

A. indicates the method which it is proposed to adopt.

B. the old method.

The two methods being so different, and the one effecting so much more complete a tillage than the other, they cannot be compared till the canes are reaped.

It may reasonably be expected that in future years the new plan will be carried out at a less expense than has been incurred in a first attempt.

Hitherto the preparation of the soil for planting has been carried on partly by means of the hoe, and partly with the plough; but though the plough has been in use for many years, it has been used merely as an assistant to the hoe in carrying out the old system, and no improvement has by its means been effected in tilling the soil.

The objects which I am seeking to effect are—

1. The thorough pulverization of the soil by the plough and grubber at an early period of the year, in order to expose it to the fertilizing influence of the rain and atmosphere.

TOBAGO.

2. The destruction of the weeds prior to planting, or at least within two months after planting, instead of the old plan of deferring weeding till the plant has appeared above ground.
3. Manuring prior to planting.
4. Wide planting, so as to give sufficient soil to each plant, and, what is no less requisite, sufficient air.
5. The substitution of implements drawn by oxen or horses for the hand hoe in weeding.

The experiments made this season have been so far satisfactory as to leave no doubt in my mind of my being able to carry out all these objects, and to induce me to determine to adopt the new method on both Mount Irvine and Buccoo estates, except in certain situations where the swampy nature of the ground, or the excessive steepness of the hills, may render it impossible or unprofitable to work with ploughs and other implements drawn by horses or oxen.

Only two difficulties present themselves in carrying out these improvements on estates in this island: 1st, the want of sufficient *well-trained* stock; 2d, the want of intelligent superintendence, that is, the superintendence of men practically acquainted with agriculture as pursued in more advanced countries. The former want I hope to supply by the introduction of horses; the latter I have already supplied on Mount Irvine by placing agricultural superintendence of the estate in the hands of an intelligent farming man from Scotland.

Sub-Enclosure 12.

In the Complaint Court of Tobago, 10th October 1853.

Lindsay, Plaintiff, against Dalling, Defendant.

Abbott, Q.C., for Plaintiff.—Van Buren, Solicitor General, for Defendant.

This was an action of trespass for breaking and entering the plaintiff's close, and cutting down his sugar canes.

The acts complained of were admitted, and the plaintiff and defendant agreed to take the judgment of the court upon the following

CASE.

The plaintiff being in December 1851 general labourer on the Shirvan estate, became a metayer of the close mentioned in the pleadings, part of that estate.

The defendant is manager of the proprietor of that estate.

By the general metairie agreement the metayer agrees to cultivate a portion of land in a husband-like manner, at his own expense, under the direction and inspection of the proprietor of the land, such proprietor furnishing the plants; to crop the land, to carry such crop to the works, and to have the same manufactured into sugar, at his own expense, but always under the direction and inspection of such proprietor, the latter furnishing the necessary carts and stock, and allowing the use of the works of the estate free from any charge or expense to the metayer for the same, beyond the care and feeding of the mules during the time they are employed by the metayer.

The metayer is to have one half of the sugar after it is cured, and the proprietor gets the other half, together with the skimmings and molasses. The portion belonging to the metayer, after being cured, and packed in casks of his own furnishing, is carted on carts or trucks to the shipping bay or town nearest to the estate, the metayer furnishing the cartmen.

In fact the proprietor furnishes the land, the works, the carts, and the stock, and receives for it half the sugar, and all the skimmings and molasses; and, on the other hand, the metayer furnishes all the labour required for the proper cultivation of such land, for the proper manufacture of the crop into sugar, and the proper care and employment of such works, carts, and stock, but subject always to the direction and inspection of the proprietor.

Before and at the time mentioned in the pleadings the plaintiff had ceased to be a general labourer on the Shirvan estate.

For the plaintiff it was contended that he had a sufficient interest in the land to support an action for trespass.

For the defendant the case was argued at great length by the solicitor-general, who contended that the metayer had not possession of the land, that the dominion and the use were in the owner of the soil, who parted with nothing more than to an ordinary job labourer for hire, and that the agreement was a contract for work and labour, and not for the use of the land.

On a subsequent day the court, having taken time to consider the case, the chief justice delivered an elaborate judgment, by which he decided that the relation between the owner of the estate and the metayer was that of landlord and tenant.

Judgment for plaintiff.

In the Complaint Court of Tobago, 8th June 1857.

Trim Morrison, Plaintiff, against William Haynes, Defendant.

Abbott, Q.C. for Plaintiff.

Trespass, for breaking and entering the plaintiff's close, and destroying his sugar canes by driving cattle thereinto, and depasturing them thereupon.

The plaintiff commenced to plant canes as a metayer in the month of June 1856. In the ensuing month of October the defendant took possession of the estate, and gave the plaintiff notice that he was not to open any more land; and the defendant then went to Barbadoes. In December the defendant returned, and finding that the plaintiff had disregarded that notice, and had opened and planted more land, directed the stock-keeper to drive the cattle through the canes, and destroy them, which the stock-keeper did.

The chief justice, referring to the case of Lindsay against Dalling, in which the court held that the relation between a landlord and a metayer under a common metairie agreement is that of landlord and tenant, decided that the tenancy of a metayer who has planted a spring plant of canes, that is to say, canes planted between the first day of January and the first day of August in the same year, is a tenancy until the first day of July in the ensuing year, and thence from year to year; and that the tenancy of a metayer who has planted a fall plant of canes, that is to say, canes planted between the first day of August and the first day of January then next following, is a tenancy until the first day of July in the second year after such canes shall have been planted, and thence from year to year; and that in either case such tenancy is determinable at any time by the consent of both parties, or by either party on the thirtieth day of June, at the expiration of such first term or on the thirtieth day of June in any subsequent year, if such party shall have given to the other party six months' previous notice of his intention to put an end to such tenancy on such thirtieth day of June.

The court held, also, that a person who breaks land not allowed to him, or who, having some land in cultivation, opens more, after notice from the landlord that he is not to do so, cannot enforce the metairie agreement against the landlord for not allowing him the use of the works, &c. for the canes grown on such unallotted or additional land, nor maintain trespass against him for destroying or damaging the cultivation of such unallotted or additional land, such person or metayer being in respect thereof a mere trespasser, unless the landlord, after discovering such trespass, expressly or by tacit acquiescence, permit the trespasser to cultivate such land.

Held, also, that the court will give vindictive damages when a growing crop is wantonly or maliciously destroyed, but not without regard to the age of the canes, and the prospect of realizing the crop.

Judgment for plaintiff.

TOBAGO.

It is mutually agreed between _____ of _____ estate in the said island of the one part, and _____ of the other part, as follows: The said _____ agrees to permit and allow the said _____ and take care of in a proper planter-like and regular manner, a piece of land marked in the plan of the said estate, No. _____ and containing _____ acres or thereabouts, and when the canes arising from such cultivation are matured, the said _____ agrees to cut the same in a proper manner, to be carried to the mill by the said _____, and when the same are so carried _____ the said _____ agrees and undertakes to grind the same, and to do and perform all the work usually done by the mill gang, and when so ground the said _____ agrees and engages to boil and manufacture the same into sugar, and when so manufactured he the said _____ engages to assist and see the same potted, and in consideration of such labour to be done and performed by the said _____ he shall be entitled to have and receive one _____ of the sugar so manufactured and removed at liberty after being properly cured, and for the use of the said land, the stock, carts, utensils, and buildings, stores, and other expenses incurred by the said _____ shall have and receive the other _____ of the said sugar, and all the skimming, melasses, and sweets arising therefrom, and in order that the cane cultivation, the cutting, grinding, and manufacturing such canes, may be carried on in a regular and planter-like manner, the said _____ agrees to find sufficient stock and machinery, and agrees to lend to the said _____ stock and carts to take proportion of the sugar to the bay for sale or shipment as he may desire, the said _____ being bound to load such carts, take care of the stock, and be answerable for the same when so lent to _____ for such purpose, and in like manner when lent to carry out manure, or for any other purpose, and when so used, to feed, rub down, and put the same in the pen.

And it is hereby expressly agreed by and between the parties hereto that the land cultivated in canes under this agreement, and the sugar made therefrom, shall be cultivated and manufactured for the best advantage of all parties, under the immediate superintendence and direction of the manager or other person in charge of the said estate, and at his discretion and judgment; and, lastly,

It is hereby expressly agreed by and between the parties hereto, that if the said _____ shall at any time fail or neglect to cultivate the canes on the said land in a proper and planter-like manner, or break or infringe any part of this agreement, or shall, without the consent in writing of the manager or other person in charge, part with or assign over the said land or any part of it to any other person, this agreement shall cease and be void from the beginning, and the proprietor shall and lawfully may, without any previous demand, enter upon the said land so neglected or assigned, and re-possess the same, and carry on the cultivation thereof, or re-let the same to any other person, without any right of emblements, or any allowance to be made to the said _____ for any labour _____ may have spent in the cultivation of the said land; but nevertheless if the said _____ shall die pending the existence of this agreement, it shall and may be lawful for the _____ or family of the said _____ to keep and cultivate the said land in the same manner under this agreement as the said _____ theretofore held and enjoyed the same. In witness whereof the said parties hereto have hereunto set their hands, this _____ day of _____ one thousand eight hundred and _____

This agreement being first read over to the within-named }
and fully explained by the said }
and apparently well understood }
being explained in the }
by the said }
presence of }

RETURN of CHURCHES and CHAPELS in TOBAGO, with the average attendance, &c., in each of the years 1853, 1854, 1855, 1856, and 1857.

DENOMINATION.	1853.			1854.			1855.			1856.			1857.		
	No. of Churches.	Average Attendance.	Centesimal Proportion to Population.	No. of Churches.	Average Attendance.	Centesimal Proportion to Population.	No. of Churches.	Average Attendance.	Centesimal Proportion to Population.	No. of Churches.	Average Attendance.	Centesimal Proportion to Population.	No. of Churches.	Average Attendance.	Centesimal Proportion to Population.
Church of England	7	2,930	19'4	7	2,935	19'3	7	2,935	18'9	7	2,770	17'9	7	2,740	17'4
Wesleyan	7	3,400	22'6	7	3,400	22'3	7	3,400	21'9	{	2,200	14'2	7	2,290	14'6
Moravians	2			2			2			3	1,422	9'2	3	1,450	9'2
TOTALS	16	6,330	42'09	16	6,335	41'6	16	6,335	40'9	17	6,392	41'5	17	6,480	41'3

(Signed) **ALBERT J. ALLOM**, Colonial Secretary.

Sub-Enclosure 14:

NUMBER of SCHOOLS of various DENOMINATIONS and SCHOLARS in each of the years 1853, 1854, 1855, 1856, and 1857.

DENOMINATION OF SCHOOLS.	1853.				1854.				1855.				1856.				1857.				
	Schools.		Scholars.		Schools.		Scholars.		Schools.		Scholars.		Schools.		Scholars.		Schools.		Scholars.		
			Males.	Females.			Total.	Males.			Females.	Total.			Males.	Females.			Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Church of England	9	314	245	559	8	241	202	443	7	178	199	377	8	193	151	344	8	211	225	436	
Wesleyan	7	357	190	547	7	384	214	598	7	355	197	552	6	295	142	437	7	360	185	545	
Moravian	3	378	338	716	3	429	395	824	4	507	455	962	3	453	401	854	3	485	394	879	
Private Schools	Not specified.				5	42	21	63	Not specified.				Not specified.				Not specified.				
	19	1,049	773	1,822	23	1,096	832	1,928	18	1,040	851	1,891	17	841	794	1,635	18	1,056	804	1,860	

(Signed) **ALBERT J. ALLOM, Colonial Secretary.**

Sub-Enclosure 15.
RETURN OF CRIMES and OFFENCES.

TOBAGO.

Year.	Felons.	Misde- meanors.	Other Offences.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.	Centesimal Proportion.	Debtors.
1851	11	46	61	118	—	—	*80	10
1852	14	62	55	131	13	—	*90	4
1853	24	74	95	193	62	—	1*33	8
1854	22	77	45	144	—	49	*94	14
1855	7	58	52	117	—	27	*76	10
1856	5	57	24	86	—	31	*55	5
1857	5	41	18	64	—	22	*46	10

17th June 1858.

(Signed) S. F. TITZCK, Acting pro Mar. General.

ST. VINCENT.

ST. VINCENT.

No. 16.

No. 16.

COPY of a DESPATCH from GOVERNOR HINCKS to the SECRETARY of STATE for the
COLONIES.

Windward Islands, Barbadoes,
April 12, 1858.

(Received May 18, 1858.)

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a Despatch from the Lieutenant-Governor of St. Vincent, together with the Blue Book for the year 1857, and the usual abstract returns.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. HINCKS.

Enclosure in No. 16.

Encl. in No. 16.

SIR,

Government House, St. Vincent,
March 20 1858.

IN my Blue Book Report (No. 45) of last year, and in my Financial Despatch No. 46, of the 9th March 1857, I had the great gratification of reporting, just before I quitted St. Vincent on a temporary visit to England, that the colony generally was in a most satisfactory state; that ample provision had been made for clearing off the public debt (incurred for liabilities prior to my assuming the administration); that there was a clear balance of about two thousand pounds in the public treasury, without any claims whatever against it; that the revenue and expenditure were fairly balanced for the future; that agricultural operations had been largely extended; and that, in short, although the returns for the Blue Book of 1856 might not disclose any very marked advance upon those of 1855, the foundation had been laid for a great and progressive improvement which would tell most favourably in coming years.

2. Upon my return to St. Vincent in the beginning of the present year, I was happy to find that the colony was in the same satisfactory state as that in which I left it; that my anticipations of its continued progress and prosperity had been fully realised; and that, in consequence, many necessary and important services had been provided for, which it was impossible to undertake whilst the finances were in an embarrassed state.

There is every prospect of this progress and prosperity being continued, and already it is found practicable in the present year to include additional services of utility and importance in the current expenditure.

3. I have now the honour to transmit the Blue Book for the year 1857, accompanied by explanatory observations upon such parts of it as appear to require notice.

ST. VINCENT.

Revenue.

The revenue of 1857 was 19,767*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.*; that of 1856 was 16,942*l.* 3*s.* 8½*d.* (after deducting the loan raised to pay off liabilities incurred prior to 1855.)

There has consequently been an increase of revenue to the extent of 2,825*l.* 11*s.* 1½*d.* in 1857.

This augmentation is due chiefly to an increase in the receipts for duties upon imports, an extended cultivation having created a demand for additional supplies; to an increase in the receipts from tonnage duties arising from the presence of a larger amount of shipping; to an increase in the receipts under the Rum Act; to an alteration of the Income Tax Act, which made it more productive; and to the imposition of an additional tax upon exports.

At the same time the amount of revenue derived from Great Britain has been reduced from 2,770*l.* in 1856 to 1,870*l.* in 1857, owing to the demise of stipendiary magistrates, whose duties are now provided for by the colony.

Expenditure.

The expenditure of 1857 was 20,247*l.* 4*s.* 5½*d.*, that of 1856 was 17,036*l.* 17*s.* 4½*d.*, but in each of these years large sums are included which were in liquidation of liabilities incurred prior to 1855; namely,

	1857.	1856.
Public accounts	£542 4 11	£1,435 6 6½
Board of Health	339 0 7	660 15 0½
Treasury Notes	781 12 7	45 8 4
Repayment of part of Loan and Interest	2,107 19 5	—
	£3,770 17 6	£2,141 9 11

Deducting these amounts from the gross expenditure of the respective years will leave the actual expenditure on account of 1857 at 16,476*l.* 6*s.* 11½*d.*, and on account of 1856 at 14,895*l.* 7*s.* 5½*d.*, showing that the real increase in the expenditure in 1857 has been 1,580*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*

This additional outlay arises from considerable sums having been spent in repairing various churches, in repairing the gaol, and in establishing the volunteer corps, and from a larger expenditure having been incurred in connexion with the public roads.

On the other hand, taking the judicial, civil, legislative, revenue, ecclesiastical, prison and police establishments, there has been a decrease of cost to the amount of 472*l.* 8*s.* 7½*d.*, as compared with 1856.

Public Debt.

The original sum borrowed at the close of 1856 to satisfy liabilities incurred prior to 1855 was 4,450*l.*

Of this amount, 1,935*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.* (besides interest on the whole sum) was paid off during 1857; the sum of 2,514*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.* therefore still remains unpaid.

Of this, all but about 300*l.* will certainly be met during the current year by the special provision made at the time the loan was obtained, and the small balance of about 300*l.* can readily be paid out of the general revenue. I see no reason to doubt, therefore, but that at the close of the present year the entire debt will be cleared off.

Militia.

No militia has been enrolled, but a volunteer corps of about seventy men, under a captain and two lieutenants, has been embodied, chiefly as a means of aiding the police, all the volunteers being sworn in also as special constables.

The corps has been established about six months, and already, on several occasions, has proved of considerable service in preserving the public peace, and in bringing offenders to justice.

Legislation.

Twenty Acts have been passed during the year, some of which are of considerable importance.

The principal ones are, first, an Act reducing the duty of ten per cent. upon ad valorem goods to five per cent. The higher duty had been fixed in 1852, a time of great financial difficulty, when there was a general stagnation of trade, and all the West Indian interests were in a most depressed state, but it was always considered as very oppressive, and as holding out encouragement to fraudulent entries of value; a change, therefore, was only delayed until the colony had retrieved its financial position, and become so far revived in its general prospects as to hold out the hope that a reduction in the ad valorem duty from ten to five per cent. would not materially affect the revenue. The new law making this reduction has now been in operation nearly nine months, and in its results, so far, has fully borne out that hope.

Secondly, Acts for the enrolment of volunteers, and for the appointment of special constables, arrangements to which I have already adverted.

Thirdly, a series of laws for improving the administration of justice, by creating a court of appeal to the judges of the supreme court from convictions or orders of the magistrates, by providing for a circuit court of appeal to be established by Her Majesty for the Windward government from the decisions of the judges of the supreme courts of the respective islands of which that government is composed, and by constituting the chief justice of the colony vice-chancellor, having the same equity jurisdiction as the chancellor, and thus affording to suitors in that court the advantage of having their causes heard before a professionally educated judge.

Fourthly, a series of laws for the encouragement of immigration, including the raising of special funds applicable to that purpose. St. VINCENT.

Under these enactments an agent has already been despatched to the Azores, to endeavour to make arrangements for procuring labourers from thence.

Fifthly, the re-enactment of a law promoting education, in place of the Act which expired in 1854, and which was not renewed earlier, in consequence of the financial difficulties of the colony, and of the impossibility of providing the necessary funds until 1857.

Political Franchise.

Remains unaltered. There has been no general election since last year's Blue Book report. At the last, held on the 29th January 1856, 211 individuals, out of a population exceeding 30,000, return the whole House of Assembly, although at the time there were more than three times that number of registered voters, and as many more probably might have registered if they had chosen to do so. So much for representative institutions in the West Indies, and the interest taken by the people in their rights, privileges, and powers.

Councils and Assembly.

The admixture of members from the two branches of the legislature in the Executive Council seems to have answered the purpose for which the change was introduced, and to have removed the distrust, jealousy, and want of harmony, which, under the old system, so frequently impeded the useful administration of public affairs.

It would be a great improvement if the introduction of all money votes in the lower house were restricted to being made through some member of the Executive Council, who was also in the Assembly, but as, at present, no practical difficulty arises from the defect, it has not been thought worth while to disturb the unanimity which exists amongst the three branches, by proposing any change.

The Legislative Council and House of Assembly are constituted as last year, with the exception of individual changes. Both are working in perfect harmony with the executive and with each other.

Population Returns.

Cannot in the least be depended upon. There has been no census taken since 1851, and that was imperfect and not to be relied upon.

Education.

Nothing was done out of the colonial revenue during the year 1857 in furtherance of education, beyond the payment of 150*l.* to keep up the poor school in Kingston, and the grant of 70*l.* to the Wesleyans to repair a schoolhouse.

The Wesleyan body receive a considerable annual grant from their missionary committee in England, and thus have been enabled to keep up their schools well, whilst those of the Church of England (which receives no such assistance) have for the most part been closed, in consequence of the withdrawal of state aid since 1854. The schools returned in the present volume as Church of England schools are, therefore, for the most part only Sunday schools.

An Act to promote education was passed late in 1857, in the place of the old Act, which expired in 1854, but no appropriation took place under it during the year.

This year it is being acted upon, and an additional vote has also been obtained, so that at least 1,000*l.* will be applied to the purposes of education.

This is a good and important beginning, and as the finances of the colony are in a satisfactory state, and its prospects most cheering for the future, there is every reason to hope that a gradual and steady progress will henceforward be made in the establishment and support of educational institutions, upon the sufficiency and success of which the best interests and future welfare of the colony so greatly depend.

The Blue Book for 1858 will, I feel persuaded, present very different and more cheering statistics in reference to education.

So also with regard to charitable institutions. During the last three years nothing whatever has been done, and even the colonial hospital itself has for the whole of that period been closed.

I have recently obtained a re-enactment of the Hospital Act, with an enlarged grant, so that during the current year it will be put in repair and be re-opened.

A Bill is also now before the legislature, and I have no doubt of its passing, to provide medical attendance, at the expense of the colony, for all children of the labouring classes throughout the entire government.

These are all cheering indications, not only of the colonial finances being again brought into a healthy state, but of a right feeling and an earnest desire on the part of the colonists themselves to provide for useful or necessary institutions when they have the means of doing so.

The sad interruption which took place during the last three years in providing for such essential and important services must be ascribed entirely to the bankrupt state of the colonial finances, and to the pressure caused by the heavy arrears of unsatisfied liabilities (for which no provision whatever was made when they were incurred), which had been allowed to accumulate up to the close of 1854, when I entered upon the administration of this government. Since then almost every other consideration has been obliged to give way to the paramount one of replacing the finances upon a sound and healthy basis.

This has now been done, and I see no reason to fear any relapse for the time to come.

ST. VINCENT.

Imports and Exports.

	Imports.	Exports.
The total values in 1857 were	£185,203	£220,956
„ 1856 „	126,104	123,422
Shewing an increase in 1847 of	£59,099	£97,534

This increase in imports is ascribable to increased cultivation and prosperity. It has taken place largely in animals used in agriculture, as asses, cattle, horses, mules; in machinery; in manures; in hardware and ironmongery; in leather; in lime; in lumber and building materials; in shingles; in wood props; in tallow for machinery; in glass; in oil and oil cake; in slates and tiles; in soap, &c., &c., &c. The improved circumstances of the colony have also led to a greater consumption of luxuries, and there has been a considerably increased importation of beer, butter, candles, coffee, fish, linen, cotton and manufactured goods, pickles, refined sugar, tea, gin, tobacco, &c., &c., &c., as well as of articles which are classed as “unenumerated.”

The increase of exports is due entirely to increased production, the result of the extended cultivation which took place in the latter part of 1855 and in 1856.

The value of the increased production is little less than 100,000*l.*, and the total value of the exports in 1857 approaches to nearly double the value of the exports in 1856, while it far exceeds double the value of the exports in 1855. The increase has taken place principally in sugar, molasses, and rum, but there has also been a very large increase in the growth of arrow root, for the good quality of which St. Vincent is now becoming well known in the London Market.

The number of vessels and amount of tonnage entering the ports in 1857 are necessarily larger in 1856, in consequence of this increase both in the imports and the exports.

Agriculture.

Has been much extended. The sugar crop of 1857 exceeds by more than one-third the crop of 1856. Rum has also been manufactured to a greater extent. The quantity of molasses has been nearly doubled, and the production of arrow root is about twice what it was in 1856.

There is an equally favourable prospect of augmented crops during the current year.

Sanatory State.

The island during the past year has fully maintained its well deserved reputation of being one of the healthiest as well as one of the loveliest of our tropical possessions.

There has been no epidemic or general illness of any kind.

Crime.

In 1857 21 prisoners were received into gaol for trial before the supreme court, and 13 were convicted.

In 1856 fourteen were received for trial, and eight were convicted, showing a considerable increase of offenders in 1857 in point of numbers. The increase, however, appears by the comparative return inserted in the Blue Book to consist in an augmentation of the number of common assaults. There are also two men convicted of burglary, and two of assault with intent to commit rape. The other offences are very similar to those of last year.

From the magistrates courts 136 offenders (exclusive of debtors) have been committed to gaol in 1857, against 131 in 1856, but out of the 136 were eight white sailors belonging to ships in harbour for refusing to work. The number, therefore, of offenders committed by the justices, who belong to the colony, is less than in 1856, and the offences are lighter, petty larcenies being much fewer in number. Of debtors the number committed is greatly diminished. In 1857 only 36 were imprisoned, against 56 in 1856, showing that the population generally participate in the improved circumstances of the colony, and that there is less pressure upon individuals.

4. On the whole, therefore, I find that the cheerful prospects which began to dawn upon St. Vincent from the close of 1856 have been most fully realized since, that its present position is most satisfactory, and that its future is most promising.

His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. EYRE

ABSTRACT RETURNS from BLUE BOOKS 1855, 1856, 1857.

Revenue.

Year.	Customs Duties.			Assessed and other Taxes.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Import.	Export.	Tonnage.				
1855 -	£ 8,189	£ —	£ 1,171	£ 5,097	£ 14,457	£ —	£ 2,719
1856 -	8,300	—	1,304	8,884	18,488	4,031	—
1857 -	9,276	—	1,480	6,691	17,447	—	1,041

Expenditure, Colonial.

ST. VINCENT.

Year.	Civil Government.	Judicial.	Ecclesiastical.	Education.	Police.	Prisons.	Other Expenditure.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1855 -	2,383	3,481	2,472	152	1,676	933	3,441	14,538	—	3,242
1856 -	2,651	3,719	2,029	137	1,860	866	3,000	14,262	—	276
1857 -	2,666	3,550	2,199	162	1,824	894	6,630	17,925	3,663	—

Expenditure, Local and Parochial.

Year.	Poor.	Roads.	All other Parochial Charges.	Total.	Remarks.
	£	£	£	£	
1855 -	}	-	-	-	No parochial taxes raised in this island. The expenses for "Roads" are included in "Expenditure, Colonial."
1856 -		-	-	-	
1857 -		-	-	-	

Expenditure, Great Britain.

Year.	Civil.	Military.	Total.	Remarks.
	£			
1855 -	2,770	—	2,770	
1856 -	2,770	—	2,770	
1857 -	2,320	—	2,320	

Population, Estimated.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Remarks.
1855 -	13,957	16,171	30,128	No Census was taken since the 30th June 1851.
1856 -				
1857 -				

Land.

Years.	Area of Square Miles.	Acreage under Cultivation.	Remarks.
1855 -	}	-	No means of ascertaining.
1856 -			
1857 -			

Coins and Currency.

Year.	Specie in Circulation.	Notes in Circulation.	REMARKS.
1855 } 1856 } 1857 }	- - -	- - -	The Notes of the Colonial Bank are in Circulation.—No means of ascertaining the amount.

St. Vincent.*Churches.*

Year.	Church of England.	Other Denominations.	Number of Sittings, Church of England.	Number of Sittings, other Denominations.	Average Attendance Church of England.	Average Attendance, other Denominations.	Centesimal Proportion to the Population.	REMARKS.
1855	18	16	4,582	9,760	2,705	7,170	—	—
1856	18	15	4,422	8,260	2,750	6,480	—	—
1857	18	15	4,422	8,260	2,750	6,480	—	—

Schools.

Year.	Church of England.	Other Denominations.	Number of Scholars.	Centesimal Proportion to the Population.	
1855	658	895	1,553	5·17	
1856	990	970	1,960	6·5	
1857	859	917	1,776	5·9	

Value in Sterling.

IMPORTS.					EXPORTS.			
Year.	From Great Britain.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Total.	To Great Britain.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1855	43,536	50,088	18,869	112,493	86,947	14,376	589	101,912
1856	42,024	52,775	31,305	126,104	105,714	16,084	1,623	123,421
1857	97,788	59,423	27,992	185,203	201,423	18,764	769	220,956

Shipping.

INWARDS TONNAGE.					OUTWARDS TONNAGE.			
Year.	From Great Britain.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Total.	To Great Britain.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1855	5,213	7,970	1,536	14,719	6,219	8,166	2,686	17,071
1856	7,239	10,867	1,678	19,784	6,427	10,123	1,562	18,112
1857	7,881	10,001	2,594	20,476	8,063	9,437	2,835	20,335

Return of Crimes and Offences.

Year.	Felons.	Misdemeanors.	Other Offences.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.	Centesimal Proportion.	Debtors.
1855	34	105	30	231	96	—	·77	62
1856	14	83	48	200	—	30	·67	56
1857	21	66	68	193	—	8	·64	38

YEAR 1857.—COLONY OF SAINT VINCENT.

No. 1.

RETURN in a Tabular Form, in the last Year in which they can be made up, of the Gross Revenues, under their different Heads, exhibiting the Cost of Collection, and any Deductions made in their Progress to the Public Treasury.

Gross Revenue.

Customs.	Tonnage Dues.	Taxes and Excise.	Fines and Forfeitures.	Fees of Office.	Lighthouse Dues.	Land, and Casual and Territorial.	Canal and Public Works.	Immigrants' Tax.	Interest.	Miscellaneous Receipts.	Gross Amount of Collection.	Cost of Collection.
£ s. d. 9,276 11 3	£ s. d. 1,479 19 10	£ s. d. 5,666 9 10	£ s. d. 806 14 2	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	£ s. d. 217 19 9	£ s. d. - - -	£ s. d. 1,100 10 4
										Total - -	£17,447 14 10	

Treasury, St. Vincent, March 20, 1858.

J. M. GRANT, Treasurer.

No. 2.

RETURN in a Tabular Form, for the last Year in which they can be made up, of the Disbursements, under their different Heads, showing the Authority under which such Disbursements were made.

Expenditure.

[illegible]

Treasury, St. Vincent, March 20, 1858.

J. M. GRANT, Treasurer.

ST. VINCENT.

Revenue.

Year.	Customs Duties.			Assessed and other Taxes.	Judicial Fines.	Miscellaneous.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Imports.	Tonnage.	Excise.						
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1855 -	8,189 7 11	1,171 10 0	3,661 5 6	702 4 8	648 3 1	86 0 9	14,458 11 11	—	—
1856 -	8,300 1 3	1,304 8 6	3,279 12 6	348 18 3	741 4 4½	4,514 8 10	18,488 18 8½	4,030 1 9½	—
1857 -	9,276 11 3	1,479 19 10	3,460 17 6	2,205 12 4	896 14 2	217 19 9	17,447 14 10	—	1,040 18 10½

Expenditure.

Year.	Civil.	Judicial.	Ecclesiastical.	Education.	Police.	Prisons.	Other Expenditure.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1855 -	2,383 16 9½	3,481 3 9	2,472 10 3	152 16 3	1,676 19 5½	933 11 9	3,441 4 9½	14,542 3 0½	—	—
1856 -	2,651 17 3	3,719 12 5	2,029 16 11	137 10 0	1,860 18 1½	866 14 3	3,000 8 5	14,266 17 4½	—	275 5 8
1857 -	2,666 1 2½	3,550 18 4	2,190 1 10	162 10 0	1,824 0 1½	894 12 9½	6,630 0 4	17,927 4 7½	3,660 7 3	—

Treasury, St. Vincent, March 23, 1858.

J. M. GRANT, Treasurer.

ST. LUCIA.

No. 17.

No. 17.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor HINCKS to the Right Hon. Sir EDWARD BULWER LYTTON, Bart. M.P.

(No. 34.)

Windward Islands, Barbados, July 7, 1858.

(Received, August 2, 1858.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the St. Lucia Blue Book for the year 1857, together with the usual comparative statements and the following Report.

Revenue and Expenditure.

2. The net revenue for 1857 was 13,332*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.*, rather less than that for 1856, which was 13,614*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.* Of this amount 6,150*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.* was raised by import and tonnage duties, and the remainder chiefly by a tax on the consumption of rum and by licences for the sale of spirits. Those items yielded nearly 6,000*l.*

3. The expenditure for the year was 12,599*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.*, being less than that of the preceding by 134*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.* The abolition of the office of Lieutenant Governor, the salary attached to which was an important charge to a colony whose aggregate expenditure is so small, only came into complete effect during the year. There was a consequent saving under this head of 631*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.* There was on the other hand an outlay of 368*l.* for militia clothing, and some of the contingent expenses were in excess of 1856. On the whole the finances of the colony are in a highly satisfactory state.

Local Revenues.

4. The corporation of Castries, the principal town of the colony, raises a revenue by a tax on houses, by water rates, wharfage dues, and market rents, of about 1,150*l.*, which is expended on the streets, wharves, waterworks, and police, and in payment of salaries and printing.

Public Debt.

5. The only debt of the colony is a small loan of 3,000*l.*, raised in 1852 under the Act of the Imperial Parliament, 11 & 12 Vict. cap. 130., and which was used in repairing the roads of the colony. It bears interest at the rate of 4 per cent., and a sinking fund of 2½ per cent. is annually invested in the imperial funds for the redemption of the principal.

6. The colony is moreover entitled to 15,000*l.* out of the imperial loan for immigration purposes. No portion of this money has yet been raised, but the immigration fund is in credit to the amount of about 1,500*l.*, the proceeds of the export tax levied for the payment of the interest and sinking fund.

Public Works.—Roads.

7. The roads of St. Lucia are described to me as being in very bad repair. They are in the aggregate about 100 miles in length, but as the sugar estates are chiefly on the coast and have facilities for shipping the produce in droghers, and as the intercourse between the chief towns of Castries and Soufrière is carried on by water conveyance, the inconvenience of bad roads is felt less than might be supposed.

St. Lucia.

8. The roads were formerly kept in repair by means of the "corvée" system, and as the proprietors of the estates seem unwilling to submit to taxation on their lands, it has been found necessary to revert to the principle of enforcing the application of the labour of the masses to the maintenance of the roads. I have myself no hope that the experiment will be successful.

9. I learn from Mr. Colonial Secretary Breen, the administrator of the government during my absence, that although the experiment of paying for labour on the roads was unsuccessful in 1853, when the loan of 3,000*l.* was expended, he has had much greater success during the past year in expending the road fund. He reports that several portions of the roads have been efficiently repaired at an expense of about 10*l.* per mile, and he hopes that in a few months the whole of the Roads of the Island will have been put into tolerable repair at an expense of about 1000*l.*

10. I may notice under this head that during the past year the last instalment of the purchase money of the Government buildings was paid off, and that some necessary improvements were commenced, the cost of which will be defrayed out of the revenue of the present year. One stone bridge was rebuilt during the year and another of iron was repaired.

Education.—Religion.

11. The educational policy hitherto pursued in St. Lucia, although not altogether without satisfactory results, is open to objection. The population of the colony is composed chiefly of Roman Catholics. There are eleven parishes, each of which has a Roman Catholic priest, who receives a salary of 100*l.* per annum. There are only two protestant clergymen in the island, both belonging to the Church of England; one at Castries the principal town, and the other at Rivière Doree, which is a small protestant settlement in the interior.

12. Such being the state of religious feeling it is rather extraordinary that St. Lucia should be one of the principal stations for the Mico School Trustees to expend their funds. The Mico institution is conducted on principles very suitable for a protestant population, but which cannot be satisfactorily carried out among Roman Catholics. It is a fundamental rule of the institution that a scripture lesson must be given daily to the pupils; and although, in all probability, if this rule were to be so far modified as to render the attendance on such instruction voluntary on the part of the pupils, the Roman Catholic clergy would still object to mixed education; yet the existence of the rule furnishes a valid ground of objection to the use of the Mico schools.

13. Notwithstanding the objections on the part of the clergy the Mico schools have had considerable success, one cause of which has been that education has been given without charge. Unfortunately, however, the means of the Mico Trustees and of the colony are too limited to afford free education to the children throughout the island; and the practical effect of the system has been to render it difficult, if not impossible, to establish schools on any other principle.

14. My belief is that there is no indisposition on the part of the labouring classes in these colonies to contribute towards the education of their children. On the contrary, I know no country where so large a proportion of the expense of educating the children of the poorer classes is thrown upon themselves.

15. I am not aware that in any of the colonies in this Government there is a tax upon landed property either for the support of religion or education. The contributions from the public revenue fall chiefly upon the consumers of imported articles, that is, on the masses of the people, and the balance is supplied by school fees.

16. In St. Lucia the schools have been maintained by contributions from the public revenue and by the funds of the Mico Trustees, so that there are no fees collected from the parents; but I regret to add that very large numbers of the children are uneducated.

17. In July 1856 I determined, with the concurrence of the Board of Education, to attempt the introduction of a new system. A teacher was obtained from the Irish national establishment in 1857 to take charge of a normal school for teachers, with a model school in connexion therewith. A most excellent selection of a teacher was

ST. LUCIA. made by the resident commissioner, the Right Honourable Alexander M'Donnell, and the experiment will, I hope, have a favourable trial. There are at present four pupil-teachers receiving instruction from the head teacher, Mr. Sutton, and about 70 pupils are in attendance at the model school. It is to be regretted, however, that it has been deemed inexpedient to make any charge to the pupils.

Legislation.

18. The legislation of the year does not seem to call for much observation. The most important ordinance passed was that to which I have already adverted for repealing the existing laws in respect to roads and bridges, and to make better provision for the formation and keeping in repair of such roads and bridges. The tariff was much simplified, and the duties on some leading articles reduced. The militia ordinance was suspended, a measure which I think on the whole judicious, though I am persuaded that it is highly desirable to have an efficient volunteer corps as well as an organized body of special constables.

Prisoners.—Crime.

19. The returns show a considerable decrease of prisoners as compared with 1856, owing to the unusual number of defaulters in the latter year under the militia and road ordinances. I shall be very much surprised if the new road ordinance has not the effect of swelling the number of prisoners. Such was the effect of a similar measure in Grenada. My experience leads me to think it most unwise to impose taxes on people who have no property on which to levy. The expense of taking persons to a distant gaol and maintaining them in prison will be found to be greater than the amount of the tax.

20. Mr. Breen reports that crimes of an aggravated character are of rare occurrence, the criminal offences being thefts and assaults. Out of 278 persons committed during the year, and among whom there were 95 cases of sickness, there was not a single death—a fact which he justly observes is highly creditable to the medical attendant and to the gaoler.

Agriculture.—Immigration.

21. Owing to the staple product of the colony having for some time back commanded a remunerating price in the market, there has been considerable activity during the year among all classes engaged in agricultural pursuits. The small proprietors have shown that they possess industry and a spirit of enterprise in a remarkable degree. Mr. Breen reports that in Saint Lucia there is great variety in the working and management of the estates; that the failure of some proprietors is as remarkable as the success of others; while the proprietors of some estates have become enriched, others have hardly paid their expenses, and others have done even worse.

22. The main cause of ill success in Saint Lucia, in the opinion of Mr. Breen, is "the want of proper management." He observes, that "it may be laid down as a general rule that estates under the direction of agents or attorneys seldom yield any return."

23. Complaints are made in Saint Lucia, as in many other colonies, of a great deficiency of labour, and there is great anxiety among the planters for the arrival of the long expected Coolie immigrants. While I readily admit that Saint Lucia has equal claims with her sister colonies to a share of the immigrant labourers, I cannot conceal from myself that the present deficiency of labour is in a great degree the result of unsound policy on the part of the owners of property.

24. The planters in Saint Lucia have discouraged as much as possible the payment of labour by the task, which has been found so advantageous in other colonies. They have adhered to the practice, which I fear is but too general, of paying wages monthly instead of weekly, as in Barbados.

25. But what I consider as the main cause of the abandonment of sugar cultivation on the part of the Creole labourers is the tenure of land. The labourers on a sugar estate in Saint Lucia, and I believe in the colonies generally, can only obtain land on a tenancy at will, or what might perhaps be more properly termed a licence of occupation, from which the occupier can be ejected in the most summary manner. The consequence has been that every industrious labourer has removed from the estates, and obtained land, either by purchase or occasionally by squatting, on which he could be independent, and where he could make improvements for his own benefit.

26. Thus not only have the proprietors lost the labour of the most industrious portion of the population, but that labour has been diverted from the cultivation of the sugar

cane to less profitable products such as provisions the demand for which being limited industry has been discouraged.

27. My belief is, and it is the result of much consideration, that if small allotments had been sold on credit to the labourers on the sugar estates, so that they could have had properties of their own, which they could have improved for the benefit of themselves and their families, not only would the labourers have remained on the estates, but there would have been a vast improvement in the condition of the people.

28. I am well aware that these views will be pronounced visionary and unsound by those who have formed, what I consider, a most erroneous opinion, that the African race will only labour under compulsion. On the other hand they are shared by many who have had good opportunities of becoming acquainted with the labouring classes. I refer especially to the clergy of different denominations, from whom I have frequently had strong representations as to the effect of the tenure of land, not only on the withdrawal of labour from cane cultivation, but on the welfare and morality of the population.

29. I may perhaps be permitted to make a brief quotation from a recent work on the West Indies, by an author of strict impartiality, Dr. Davy, for some years Inspector General of Army Hospitals at this station, in confirmation of the opinions which I have expressed. "So long as the labourers hold their cottages as tenants at will, liable to be expelled at a day's notice; so long as the planters are insecure of their labour from day to day; so long as land is apportioned to the labourer in lieu in part or altogether of money wages, neither the planter nor the labourer is likely to be contented, nor fair and honest labour attainable."

30. It is satisfactory for me, in closing this report, to be able to state that, on the whole, the colony of Saint Lucia is enjoying a high state of prosperity. The taxes are light, the climate is healthy, the people are industrious and contented, and there are excellent opportunities for the profitable investment of capital.

31. I enclose the annual report of the inspector of prisons, a copy of the gaol regulations, and a report on the Government House or Pavilion, which is at present unoccupied, and I fear likely to fall into decay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. HINCKS.

The Right Honourable
Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton, Bart. M.P.

Enclosure 1. in No. 17.

ABSTRACT RETURN from BLUE BOOK 1851, 1852, 1853, 1854, 1855, 1856, and 1857.

Revenue.

Year.	Custom Duties.			Assessed and other Taxes and Miscellaneous Revenue.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Import.	Export.	Tonnage.				
1851	£ s. d. 5,147 17 6½	£ s. d. 1,760 9 9½	£ s. d. 659 7 2	£ s. d. 6,083 11 6½	£ s. d. 13,651 6 0½	£ s. d. —	£ s. d. —
1852	5,752 17 6½	1,846 12 10	664 9 8½	4,696 5 5½	12,960 5 6½	—	691 0 6½
1853	5,252 3 8	912 15 11	666 14 7	5,690 2 2	12,521 16 4	—	438 9 2½
1854	6,482 3 8	—	744 2 10	6,872 5 9½	14,087 4 6	1,565 8 2	—
1855	4,589 9 8	—	647 2 7	6,908 14 7½	12,145 6 10½	—	1,941 17 7½
1856	5,893 16 1	—	648 6 10	7,131 17 10	13,614 0 9	1,468 13 10½	—
1857	5,565 13 8	—	584 16 8	7,181 12 0	13,332 2 4	—	281 18 5

Expenditure, Colonial.

Year.	Civil Government.	Judicial.	Ecclesiastical.	Poor.	Police.	Prisons.	Other Expenditure.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
1851	£ s. d. 3,061 13 6½	£ s. d. 2,688 4 7½	£ s. d. 1,244 16 3½	£ s. d. 240 8 5½	£ s. d. 850 10 0	£ s. d. 496 3 8	£ s. d. 1,952 15 7	£ s. d. 11,132 12 2	£ s. d. —	£ s. d. —
1852	3,138 0 6	2,850 1 10	1,267 17 2½	385 6 5½	942 8 0	615 7 2½	2,540 2 2½	11,689 3 5½	556 11 3½	—
1853	3,659 17 10½	2,685 17 1	1,378 4 6½	307 14 3	943 8 0	605 3 0½	2,889 10 1	12,449 14 10½	760 11 6	—
1854	3,641 0 6	3,116 2 4	1,396 4 11	436 18 6	987 4 0	782 1 5½	3,205 9 8	13,565 1 4½	1,115 6 6	—
1855	3,007 9 2	2,783 13 6	1,466 3 2	312 17 7	962 16 0	814 16 8	4,833 12 10	14,791 8 11	704 4 5	—
1856	3,234 15 9	2,843 11 3	1,414 15 9	397 14 11	945 9 4	1,082 4 11	2,815 18 7	12,734 10 6	—	2,056 18 5
1857	3,806 11 4	3,051 11 1	1,270 8 7	466 1 6	1,022 2 8	974 14 8	2,208 0 11	12,539 10 9	—	134 19 9

ST. LUCIA.

Expenditure, Local and Parochial.

Year.	Education.			Roads.			All other Parochial Charges.			Total.			Remarks.
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
1851 -	853	6	1½	-	-	-	838	1	5	1,691	7	6	
1852 -	1,105	0	0	489	11	6	1,167	9	10	2,762	1	4	
1853 -	1,070	18	9½	3,126	4	11½	1,281	5	8	5,478	9	5	
1854 -	1,156	18	7	292	10	2	1,293	9	11	2,742	18	8	
1855 -	870	12	3	550	15	7	1,132	11	10	2,553	17	8	
1856 -	1,267	4	6½	778	1	7	1,352	4	6	3,897	10	7½	
1857 -	1,137	3	6	1,086	19	3	1,149	4	5	3,373	7	2	

Expenditure, Great Britain.

Year.	Civil.			Military.			Total.			Remarks.
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
1851 -	1,816	18	9	13,317	16	5	15,134	15	2	
1852 -	1,749	19	0	12,705	19	7	14,455	18	0	
1853 -	1,775	4	4	13,033	16	2	14,809	0	6	
1854 -	1,754	10	4	14,768	4	7	16,522	14	11	
1855 -	1,477	0	0	13,712	0	7	15,189	0	7	
1856 -	1,477	0	0	16,451	9	1	17,928	9	1	
1857 -	1,477	0	0	12,080	19	4	13,557	19	4	

Population.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Remarks.
1851 -	11,763	12,527	24,290	
1852 -	11,749	12,601	24,350	
1853 -	12,034	12,973	25,007	
1854 -	11,511	12,612	24,123	
1855 -	11,931	13,299	25,230	
1856 -	12,136	13,581	25,717	
1857 -	12,057	13,250	25,307	

Land.

Year.	Area in Square Miles.	Acreage under Cultivation.	Remarks.
1851 -	Unknown	4,077	
1852 -	Do.	4,674	
1853 -	Do.	6,103½	
1854 -	Do.	4,628	
1855 -	Do.	5,306½	
1856 -	Do.	5,387½	
1857 -	Do.	4,666½	

Coins and Currency.

Year.	Specie in Circulation.				Notes in Circulation.					
			£	s.	d.			£	s.	d.
1851	-	Unknown	-	—		Estimated at	-	5,208	0	0
1852	-	Do.	-	—		Do.	-	4,166	13	4
1853	-	Estimated at	-	10,500	0 0	Do.	-	4,166	13	4
1854	-	Do.	-	10,600	0 0	Do.	-	4,180	0	0
1855	-	Do.	-	10,600	0 0	Do.	-	5,208	6	8
1856	-	Do.	-	12,000	0 0	Do.	-	5,208	6	8
1857	-	Do.	-	15,000	0 0	Do.	-	7,291	13	4

Churches.

Year.	Church of England.	Other Denominations.	No. of Sittings.	Average Attendance.	Per Cent. in Population.	Remarks.
1851 -	3	10	5,932	7,650	31 63/00	
1852 -	3	10	5,982	8,000	33 7/00	
1853 -	3	10	6,575	8,455	33 81/00	
1854 -	3	9	5,550	7,550	31 28/00	
1855 -	3	9	6,892	7,835	31 50/00	
1856 -	2	10 and 1 Chapel	7,090	7,960	32 91 00	
1857 -	2	10 and 1 Chapel	6,441	7,430	30 72 00	

ST. LUCIA.

Schools.

Year.	Church of England.	Other Denominations.	Total No. of Scholars.	Per Cent. on Population.	Remarks.
1851 -	10	5	904	3.73/00	Centesimal Proportions calculated according to Population Census taken in 1850.
1852 -	11	9	1,117	4.61/00	
1853 -	20	2	1,393	5.16/00	
1854 -	18	4	1,243	5.14/00	
1855 -	13	5	1,052	4.34/00	
1856 -	12	4	1,072	4.42/00	
1857 -	12	4	1,147	4.74/00	

*Imports.**Exports.*

VALUE IN STERLING.

Year.	From Great Britain.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Total.	To Great Britain.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1851 -	22,179 3 7	29,612 4 9	17,089 17 7	68,881 5 11	45,699 6 6	8,005 18 11	1,180 0 0	54,815 5 5
1852 -	38,508 16 8	25,800 10 8	16,691 15 3	81,002 2 7	46,553 9 8	7,037 18 8	3,619 2 8	57,210 11 0
1853 -	26,001 2 8	27,350 5 9	19,298 17 11	72,650 6 4	46,438 9 8	7,930 14 7	2,635 8 7	57,004 12 10
1854 -	41,966 8 9	27,879 2 11	26,432 19 4	96,278 11 0	46,004 16 5	6,668 1 0	3,163 11 3	55,836 8 8
1855 -	12,831 0 9	22,188 14 7	20,494 9 2	55,514 4 6	47,508 12 10	2,689 19 6	4,781 13 4	54,980 5 8
1856 -	23,312 8 8	38,323 12 11	30,264 19 5	91,901 1 0	61,283 7 2	4,571 11 4	4,629 5 6	70,484 4 0
1857 -	21,550 6 8	39,202 19 6	29,310 19 6	90,064 5 8	90,141 12 3	4,657 7 10	5,104 7 2	99,903 7 3

Shipping.

INWARDS.					OUTWARDS.			
Year.	From Great Britain.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Total.	To Great Britain.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1851 -	2,810	5,364	1,851	10,025	3,548	4,287	2,015	9,850
1852 -	3,178	4,870	3,109	11,157	3,930	4,830	2,471	11,231
1853 -	2,226	4,333	3,190	9,749	3,799	4,125	2,352	10,276
1854 -	3,525	5,743	3,205	12,471	3,434	2,468	5,460	11,362
1855 -	1,392	3,595	2,579	7,566	3,883	5,308	4,594	13,785
1856 -	2,324	3,237	3,418	8,979	3,452	3,527	2,403	9,382
1857 -	2,365	4,158	2,768	9,291	2,975	4,707	1,678	9,360

Return of Criminal and other Prisoners.

Year.	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.	Debtors
1851 -	239	69	3	5	316	—	—	—
1852 -	221	39	3	2	265	—	51	—
1853 -	149	55	2	—	206	—	59	—
1854 -	178	21	2	—	201	—	5	—
1855 -	221	36	2	—	259	53	—	3
1856 -	351	23	3	—	377	118	—	3
1857 -	213	60	5	—	278	—	99	6

Government Office,
St. Lucia.GEORGE M. McLEOD,
Chief Clerk.

St. LUCIA.

Enclosure 2.
in No. 17.

Enclosure 2 in No. 17.

ANNUAL REPORT of the INSPECTOR of PRISONS, St. LUCIA, for 1857.

Special Justice's Office, Castries, 1st District,
January 15th 1858.

THE royal gaol of Castries is the only prison in St. Lucia; it is a substantial edifice in masonry, is commodious and well ventilated; it measures 75 in length and 36 feet in width, and has an open gallery along the whole front of nine feet in width. The prison is surrounded on three sides by high walls, and on the fourth by a wall four feet high surmounted by an iron railing. The Ordnance Department have, however, granted the colony a space of land of 86 feet by 18 feet adjoining this wall and railing, which were found quite insufficient for keeping the prisoners in, if they could escape the vigilance of the officer for a couple of minutes, and a wall to be 12 feet high is now being built; as soon as it is completed the old wall and railing are to be removed. There are four separate yards within the walls for exercise, &c. There are also within the walls an hospital, a house and kitchen for the gaoler, a store-room and a building containing two large airy cells, which were formerly used for the confinement of maniacs, but which since a lunatic asylum has been established in Castries have been made use of for the confinement of juvenile offenders; there is also a privy, through which water is continually running. In the front or main yard there is a large reservoir, into and out of which there is always flowing a copious supply of excellent water.

The prison is capable of containing 130 prisoners, with complete separation of the sexes. There were 278 prisoners confined during the year, whilst in 1856 there were 377. This decrease is to be ascribed in a great measure to the diminution of imprisonment under the militia and road ordinances, although there appears to have been nearly double the number of convictions for felonies in 1857 to that of 1856; in 1856 the number being 34, and in 1857, 65.

There are nine wards on the upper floor of the gaol, 16 feet by 13 feet. Two of these are reserved for the confinement of debtors, one used as a day room, and one is occupied by the turnkey. The attic is divided into three large rooms, in which the female prisoners are kept. On the ground floor there are ten cells, which are clean, commodious, and well-ventilated.

Prisoners under sentence receive two suits of clothes per annum. No bedding whatever is supplied. The prisoners in the cells on the ground floor have raised trestles on which they sleep, those in the upper wards, generally parties for trial or who have been sentenced to imprisonment only, sleep on the floor.

The diet consists of half a pound of salt fish and half a pot of farine manioc, or its equivalent of bread or flour, per diem. Debtors receive an alimentary allowance from the incarcerating creditor; and soldiers imprisoned under sentence of courts-martial pay sixpence per diem for their rations.

The hours of labour of the penal gang are from 6 to 9 A.M. and from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.; the hours within the walls are from 6 to 10 A.M. and from 2 to 6 P.M. The work of the penal gang is not fixed, they being employed in all kinds of work, within a reasonable distance of the prison.

There is no regular chaplain appointed to the prison, but clergymen and religious teachers of all persuasions have free access to the prisoners during the hours appointed by the regulations. There is no chapel in the gaol nor any suitable apartment for the performance of divine service. The day-room is used when any clergyman desires to teach the prisoners, who are separated in the best manner the size of the apartment will permit. Very nearly the whole of the prisoners during the year were Roman Catholics. The Protestant minister visited the prison 16 times during the year, the Roman Catholic priest but once.

The surgeon visits the gaol daily, and also attends whenever called by the keeper: he keeps a journal, in which is inserted the name of each sick prisoner, with the nature of the disease, the treatment or medicines prescribed, and the result of the case. 95 cases are reported as having been taken into hospital during the year: there was no death. The most prevalent diseases were fever, ulcers, diarrhoea, and ophthalmia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. H. JENNINGS,

Sp. J., 1 D., and Insp. of Prisons.

Enclosure 3.
in No. 17.

Enclosure 3. in No. 17.

RULES and REGULATIONS for the Conduct of the ROYAL GAOL of St. LUCIA, as revised and amended by his Excellency Lieutenant-Governor POWER in Council, on the 10th of October 1854.

INSPECTOR OF PRISONS.

1. The inspector of prisons nominated under the Imperial Act of 1 & 2 Vict. cap. 67. shall visit the prison at least once in every week at uncertain periods.

2. He is empowered to call before him the keeper and all subordinate officers of the prison, and to require them to produce prisoners and books, papers and documents, whenever he shall think fit.

3. It shall be the duty of the inspector to inquire into every matter connected with the gaol; and whenever he may consider it necessary, to make a special report thereon to the Lieutenant-Governor.

THE KEEPER.

ST. LUCIA.

4. The keeper shall reside within the gaol. He shall not be allowed to sell any articles to prisoners, or have any interest in any contract for supplying provisions, or otherwise.

5. The keeper is on no account himself to employ or allow the matron or other officer to employ prisoners for any purpose, except such menial service as may be permitted by the provost marshal general.

6. He shall exercise his authority with firmness, temper, and humanity, abstain from all irritating language, and never strike a prisoner. He shall enforce similar conduct on the part of the subordinate officers of the prison.

7. He shall enforce a high degree of cleanliness in the prison, as well with respect to the buildings and yards as to the persons and clothing of the prisoners.

8. It shall be the duty of the keeper to take care that the apartments of the gaol be washed every Wednesday and Saturday morning, except in wet weather, and that the prison be swept and cleaned twice in each day, and also that the walls of the passages and wards of the prison are whitewashed once every two months.

9. On the death of a prisoner, the keeper shall immediately give notice to the coroner of the district, and, if practicable, to the relations of the deceased.

10. The keeper of the prison shall keep two books, one a diary and the other a register, according to forms approved by the provost marshal and sanctioned by the Lieutenant-Governor, in which books shall be entered the name of each prisoner, the date of commitment, the personal description, trade, or calling, the time for which committed, by whose order, the nature of offence, the sentence passed, the punishment inflicted, and the day of release, with remarks.

11. The keeper shall not receive any person as a prisoner into the royal gaol without a formal sentence or commitment in writing, in which the cause of committal or sentence shall be expressly stated, except persons brought in by the police for safe custody, until they can be taken before a magistrate, and persons so brought in for safe custody shall not be detained longer than is necessary for that purpose, such period of detention in no case to exceed 24 hours.

12. The keeper, on receiving any person as a prisoner under a committal (whether for trial, under sentence, or otherwise), shall take particular care that such prisoner is disposed of according to the classification established by the 19th rule.

13. The keeper shall make a round of the prison every night at eight o'clock, and shall carefully inspect the several prisoners.

14. Besides the specific duties enumerated, the keeper will consider himself generally responsible for the due execution of all regulations respecting the safe keeping, classification, discipline, and treatment of prisoners.

THE SURGEON.

15. The surgeon attached to the gaol shall visit the prisons daily, and also attend whenever called upon by the keeper.

16. The surgeon shall keep a journal or record in which shall be inserted the name of each sick prisoner, with the nature of the prisoner's disease, and the treatment or medicines prescribed, and the result of the case, and remarks.

17. The surgeon will deliver to the provost marshal general and to the inspector of prisons, at the close of every year, a report in writing, upon the general state of health of the prisoners during the past year, and specifying the disorders which have been most prevalent, and stating whether any connexion may in his opinion be traced between the diseases which have occurred and the locality or state of the building, diet or employment of the prisoners, or any other facts which have come under his notice; also the number of deaths, and the proportion of sick to the average number of prisoners during the year.

CLASSIFICATION, TREATMENT, AND DISCIPLINE OF PRISONERS.

Classification.

18. Female prisoners shall be kept apart from the male prisoners, so as to prevent them from seeing, conversing, or holding any intercourse with each other; and female prisoners shall at all times be attended by female officers, and separated among themselves as much as possible, in conformity with the rules established for male prisoners.

19. Male prisoners in gaol shall be classified as follows:

First. Prisoners for debt.

Second. Persons committed for contempt of court in civil process, or for want of securities, or to be examined as witnesses in behalf of the Crown in any prosecution.

Third. Persons committed for trial on suspicion of misdemeanours, and for petty offences, and as vagrants.

Fourth. Persons committed on charge of theft, or felony of any description.

Fifth. Prisoners convicted of misdemeanours.

Sixth. Prisoners convicted of theft, or of felony of any description.

20. All persons, on admission as prisoners, shall be strictly searched, and knives or other sharp or dangerous weapons be taken from them, and their clothing and bedding shall be likewise examined. Such personal examination, as regards female prisoners, to be made by or under the superintendence of the matron, and to be executed by females, and in the presence of the matron alone.

21. Prisoners convicted of felony shall be restricted to the back yard of the prison during the hours of exercise.

St. Lucia.

22. That the hours of airing or exercise of prisoners confined as debtors be limited and arranged so as they may not be at large at the same time with the other prisoners.

Treatment.

23. Provisions of good, sound, and wholesome quality, will be issued by the keeper to each prisoner daily, and without distinction, according to the tariff hereunto annexed.

24. Under no pretence whatever shall any money or spirits or other article be issued to any prisoner in lieu of provisions, unless by an express order in writing of the surgeon.

25. No wine, spirits, or strong waters shall be permitted to be introduced into the gaol under any pretence whatsoever, except under an order in writing by the surgeon.

26. No extra food shall be allowed to any prisoner without a written order to that effect of the surgeon or the provost marshal general.

27. All prisoners sick or unable to work shall be removed to the hospital.

28. If a prisoner complains of illness, the case shall be reported without delay to the surgeon, and no prisoner so complaining is to be compelled to labour until after the surgeon has seen and given directions respecting such prisoner.

29. Every convicted prisoner shall receive clothing of two shirts, two pairs trowsers, and a woollen cap, per annum, or proportionably to the term of his imprisonment. Female prisoners to receive an equivalent in quality and quantity.

30. All inmates of the gaol shall be locked up by seven o'clock in the evening.

31. No light shall be permitted to the prisoners in gaol after eight o'clock in the evening.

32. The hours allotted for exercise shall be regulated as follows:—

For male prisoners—from 10 to 12 A.M.

For female prisoners—from 12 to 2 P.M.

Discipline.

33. Prisoners in the gaol shall not be allowed to smoke or to make use of tobacco in any way.

34. Gambling of any description whatever will not be permitted within the gaol.

35. Writing on or defacing the doors or walls of the prison is strictly prohibited.

36. Sentence to hard labour shall be carried into effect by work in the penal gang, or in breaking stones within the precincts of the gaol, or in other task-works suited to the craft or trade of any prisoner. Washing and cleaning the prison and gaol-yard to be performed by convicted prisoners; and silence is to be enjoined and enforced at every description of work.

37. The hours of labour for the penal gang shall be from 6 to 9 A.M., and from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.

38. The hours of labour within the prison yard shall be from 6 to 10 A.M., and from 2 to 6 P.M.

39. Convicts in the penal gang, whose refractory conduct renders the restraint of fetters necessary for their safe keeping while employed on public works without the prison walls, shall be secured by chains similar to those used for such convicts in England.

40. All contumacious or disorderly conduct of prisoners (whether by refusing or neglecting to perform their work, or by wilful damage to or mismanagement of it,) and all offences, such as disobedience of the prison rules, assaults by prisoners on each other or on any officer of the establishment, abusive and profane language, indecent or irreverent behaviour during divine service or religious teaching, may be inquired into by a visiting justice to be from time to time appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor, who may in any such case order the offender to be punished with solitary confinement, for any time not exceeding six days; and in any flagrant case of violent or refractory conduct, the prisoner so offending may be ordered by him to be whipped, such punishment not to exceed thirty-six lashes for each offence.

41. No punishment whatever shall be carried into effect without the express sanction of the Lieutenant-Governor.

42. The punishment of whipping, when inflicted, shall be carried into effect within the gaol, in presence of the provost marshal general, the medical officer, and the keeper of the gaol.

43. In all cases of whipping, a medical examination and certificate of the capability of the prisoner to endure the punishment shall precede its infliction.

44. Punishments by whipping shall take place before the hour of six in the morning, unless otherwise ordered, or the special nature of the case require a departure from this rule.

VISITS TO AND COMMUNICATIONS FOR AND FROM PRISONERS.

Visits.

45. Prisoners not convicted of, or charged with, any criminal offence, may be allowed to receive visitors between the hours of 7 and 10 A.M. and 2 and 6 P.M., unless the provost marshal general or inspectors of prisons shall have issued an order to the contrary, in which case the name of the applicant, together with the name of the prisoner and date of refusal, must be entered on the journal of the gaol.

46. Prisoners, while under commitment for examination or re-examination, shall not be allowed the access of legal adviser or friends, except by authority of the committing magistrate, and under such restrictions as to him shall seem requisite.

47. Visitors, except clergy or counsel, shall not be admitted or allowed to remain within the prison during the hours set apart for the exercise and recreation of the prisoners.

48. Visitors, previous to admission, shall give their names and the name of the prisoner or prisoners whom they wish to visit.

49. The names of all visitors, and of the prisoners whom they visit, shall be inserted in a book to be kept for that purpose.

50. Prisoners under conviction shall not be allowed to receive the visits of their friends or relations until after the expiration of the first three months of their imprisonment; but subsequently to that period, they may see their friends or relations once in the course of each successive three months.

51. In cases of sickness, or other special circumstances, however, convicted prisoners and prisoners committed for nonpayment of penalties or for want of sureties, may receive the visits of their relations and friends at other times, subject to the general regulations of the prison, and provided that such special circumstances be entered in the journal kept by the gaoler for recording the names of visitors and the name of the prisoner to whom such visit is made.

Communications.

52. Parcels or letters shall not be delivered to or sent by any prisoner under criminal sentence, until they have been inspected by the keeper; and in case any improper communication be attempted to be made to or by any prisoner, the keeper shall withhold such parcel or letter until he has the direction of the provost marshal general, who may dispose of the same as he may think fit.

53. Books or newspapers shall not be admitted into the gaol, except such as shall be deemed proper for the religious and moral instruction of the prisoners, to be approved of by the provost marshal general, except in the case of debtors, who shall be allowed to receive books, papers, and letters.

MISCELLANEOUS.

54. No insane person, as such, to be admitted into the prison.

Tariff of Provisions for Prisoners in Gaol.

Each male and female adult prisoner shall receive daily rations of $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. salt fish (cod fish,) $\frac{1}{2}$ pot farine manioc or $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of bread.

Allowance for Debtors.

1st Class.—Debtors incarcerated in virtue of a decree issuing from the royal court — one shilling sterling per diem.

2d Class.—Petty debt court, $7\frac{1}{2}d.$ per diem.

3d Class.—Justice of the peace court — the ordinary gaol rations in kind, the incarcerating creditor being required to deposit in the hands of the gaoler, the value of the rations at the rate at which they are furnished.

Done and passed in Council, this 10th day of October 1854.

R. G. M'HUGH,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Enclosure 4. in No. 17.

REPORT of the PAVILION COMMITTEE, ST. LUCIA, for the Year 1857.

Enclosure 4.
in No. 17.

The pavilion has remained unoccupied during the year 1857. A married soldier from the 41st regiment had been told off by direction of his Excellency Sir A. J. Clöete, commanding Her Majesty's forces, for the purpose of taking care of the premises, and has occupied a portion of the outbuildings.

The pavilion being constructed wholly of wood requires constant repair; and the committee beg respectfully to submit for consideration whether measures should not be taken either towards making the building serviceable or disposing of it.

(Signed) R. G. M'HUGH, H. M. Treasurer.
JAMES MACFARLANE, M.C.

Enclosure 5. in No. 17.

Enclosure
in No. 17.

INVENTORY of the FURNITURE, the PROPERTY of the COLONY, in the PAVILION.

Drawing Room.

Two sofas.
Four card tables.
Two sofa tables.
Seventeen drawing-room chairs.
One bronze three-light chandelier.

Dining Room.

One large side-board.
Two small ditto.
One telescope table and leaves.
One side table.
Twenty-three dining-room chairs.
One celaret.

Office and Gallery.

One ottoman.
Two small tables.
Two easy chairs.
One writing table.
Two office tables.
Eleven chairs.
One small press.
One large armoire.

First Bed Room.

One bedstead and mattress and netting.
One chest of drawers.
One armoire.

ST. LUCIA.*Second Bed Room.*

One bedstead, mattress, and netting.
 One chest of drawers.
 One dressing table.
 One washhand stand.
 Ewer, basin, and chamber.
 One looking glass.

Third Bed Room.

One bedstead, mattress, and netting.
 One dressing table.
 One washhand stand.
 Ewer, basin, and chamber.
 One commode.
 One looking-glass.

Fourth Bed Room.

One bedstead, mattress, and netting.
 One chest of drawers.
 One washhand stand.
 Ewer, basin, and chamber.

One looking-glass.
 One dressing table.
 One common table.
 Two bidets.

Miscellaneous.

One chest of drawers.
 One washhand stand.
 One ewer, basin, and chamber.
 One dressing table.
 One looking-glass.
 One commode.

Sundries.

One eight-day clock.
 Sixteen common chairs (damaged).
 Twenty barrel shades.
 Three iron bedsteads; eight side shades.
 Three deal tables.
 One small mattress.
 Five screens.

(Signed)

R. G. M'HUGH,

Her Majesty's Treasurer at St. Lucia, in
 charge of Works and Buildings.

ANTIGUA.**ANTIGUA.**

No. 18.

No. 18.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HAMILTON to the Right Hon. Sir
 E. B. LYTON, Bart.

(No. 75.)

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
 July 3, 1858.

(Received August 2, 1858.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of Antigua for the year 1857.

The past year was not marked by events of any importance to the island; and, indeed, when these occur, they form the subject of correspondence at the time, as has been the case in the present year, and cannot be reserved for remarks in the report accompanying the annual Blue Book.

Revenue.

The total revenue in 1856 was 36,693*l.*, compared with 34,219*l.* in 1857, showing a decrease of 2,474*l.*; but such decrease is more apparent than real. The difference on the tonnage and tariff duties, from which sources the revenue of the colony is principally derived, is not more than may at any time be caused by ordinary fluctuations in trade. The excess caused in 1856 by the issue of 3,823*l.* treasury bills for loans raised to meet temporary exigencies, and the assistance afforded to the revenue in 1857 by 2,693*l.*, the sum derived from the sale of military stores, should fairly be left out of any comparison between the two years, and makes the actual decrease 1,344*l.*

Expenditure.

The expenditure for 1857 is in excess of that for 1856. Although part of the increase is caused by the redemption of local liabilities to the extent of 3,150*l.*, yet 3,350*l.* have been appropriated to the repair of public buildings, and 1,903*l.* to the support of public institutions, beyond what was required for these purposes in 1856; and an item for education grants of 250*l.* appears for the first time in the public accounts.

Legislation.

The Acts deserving special notice are the "Education Act," "Law of Evidence," "Criminal Justice," "Public Health Act," and the Act "for reorganizing the Treasury Department."

Education.

ANTIGUA.

This return does not show any increased number of schools, nor any great difference in the number of pupils; but it is the first return since the passing of the Education Act, and time has not been afforded for any decided result from that measure.

Grants are made by the board of education to schools on behalf of which an application for aid has been made by the managers or superintendent.

The conditions on which such assistance may be obtained are stated by the Education Act to be:—

1. The daily average attendance must not be less than 20.
2. The Christian religion must be taught.

The board may, in its discretion, make grants without reference to the expenditure; but the general rule is, that the board will grant to each school 6*d.* per head per quarter for each child in average attendance; and in addition to this, one third of the cost of maintaining the school during the quarter.

Annexed is a return from the inspector, of schools receiving aid, and the amount of such aid respectively. Enclosure 1.

The training schools of the Moravian Establishment and Mico Institution, from the principles on which they are conducted, are valuable auxiliaries to education, and diffuse among these colonies a class of teachers who by their religious character and acquirements will work a great benefit among the native population. Having lately visited the Mico Institution, I was much pleased with the efficient mode of instruction, the state of proficiency of the students, and the entire establishment. I enclose a letter from the respectable superintendent, Mr. Sidney Stead, with an account of the normal school, and abstract of returns of teachers trained in the institution during the last 20 years. Enclosure 2.

It would be of advantage to the West Indies if more publicity were given to the nature and value of this institution.

Murrain.

During the year 1857 a murrain prevailed among the cattle on the plantations, which was at first attributed to poison, but that conjecture, on careful inquiry, was shown to be without foundation; and the disease, baffling human skill, is rightly ascribed to atmospheric and other natural causes. The want of sufficient pasture and good water is among the causes. I enclose a report from Dr. Adam Nicholson, M.D., with remarks on the progress, symptoms, and pathology of the disease, which are worthy of observation. Enclosure 3.

Want of Pure Water.

It is surprising that human and animal life is supported in any degree of health in an island in which there is not one running stream, and where art is so little applied in preserving water. This immediately attracts the observation of persons coming to this island; and the chief justice called the public attention to the subject, as connected with the high rate of mortality, in a charge to the grand jury, of which I enclose a copy. Enclosure 4.

Population.

The returns and reports of the registrar-general for 1857 are annexed. Enclosure 5.

I have, &c.

(Signed) KER B. HAMILTON.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 18.
An Abstract of the RETURNS for the QUARTER ending December 31st, 1857.

No.	Name or Locality.	Kind.	Number of Teachers.	Average Number on List.	Average Attendance per Day.	Average Attendance per Cent.	Number who attended 40 Days.	Number per Cent. who attended 40 Days.	Average Number of Days per Week attended by each Child.	EXPENDITURE.				RECEIPTS in the Island.				
										Salaries.	Books and Maps.	Apparatus.	Total.	School Fees.	Grants from Board of Education.		Total Receipts.	
															£	s.		d.	£	s.	d.
CHURCH SCHOOLS.																		
1	Cathedral	Juvenile Boys	1	50	31	62	14	28	3.1	14 17 0	—	1 12 0	16 9 0	1 7 0	6 5 2	7 12 2	2	
2	Rectory	Infant G. & B.	2	121½	63½	54	59	48.6	2.7	10 4 6	—	6 13 0	16 17 6	0 4 6	7 5 2	7 9 8	3	
3	Point School	Girls	1	39½	21	59.4	14	35.6	3.3	3 13 4	—	—	3 13 4	0 13 4	1 14 11	2 8 9	4	
4	Gray's Farm	Mixed	1	63½	36½	58	23	33	2.7	4 11 4	—	—	4 11 4	0 11 4	2 8 5	3 19 9	5	
5	St. Luke's	"	2	92	21½	67	12	57.5	2.9	3 12 6	—	1 16 0	5 8 6	0 10 6	2 6 8	2 17 2	6	
6	St. James'	"	1	93	51	54.8	40	43	2.8	6 10 10	—	1 4 0	7 14 10	1 0 10	3 17 1	4 17 11	7	
7	Falmouth	"	1	55	38.75	70.4	34	62	3.5	4 2 10	—	—	4 2 10	0 16 4	2 6 7	3 2 11	8	
8	English Harbour	"	2	65½	35	53.3	30	45.6	2.6	10 5 0	—	—	10 5 0	0 1 4	4 5 10	4 7 2	9	
9	Valley Chapel	"	2	64½	34	52.8	16	24.9	2.5	11 3 6	—	—	11 3 6	6 3 6	4 11 6	10 15 0	10	
10	St. Mary's, Old Road	"	1	72½	52	71.9	52	71.9	3.6	6 7 8	0 10 0	2 8 0	9 5 8	3 17 8	2 0 0	8 5 6	11	
11	All Saints	"	15	656½	386	58.8	294	39.7	3 nearly	75 8 6	0 10 0	13 13 0	89 11 6	16 5 4	41 9 2	57 14 6		
MORAVIAN SCHOOLS.																		
1	Spring Gardens	Juvenile B. & G.	2	151½	106	70	120	79.3	3.5	13 4 0	1 0 0	—	14 4 0	9 11 6	7 7 8	16 19 2	2	
2	Newfield	Infant	2	129	76½	59.3	55	42.5	2.9	5 14 0	0 12 0	—	6 6 0	3 12 8	4 0 0	7 12 8	3	
3	"	"	1	60	30	50	—	—	2.4	—	—	—	4 4 0	0 13 4	2 3 0	2 16 4	4	
4	"	Juvenile	1	79	41½	52.3	21	26.6	2.6	—	—	—	6 0 0	1 14 6	3 0 6	4 15 0	5	
5	Lebanon	Mixed	3	204½	160	79.9	180	88	3.4	—	—	—	9 16 0	7 17 3	7 5 4	15 2 7	6	
6	Cedarhall	Juvenile	2	67½	39	58	39	58	2.9	8 10 8	—	—	8 10 8	3 15 0	3 16 4	7 11 4	7	
7	"	Infant	1	141½	62	45.8	62	45.8	2.2	4 5 0	—	—	4 5 0	2 4 4	2 19 4	5 3 8	8	
8	Green Bay	Mixed	2	203½	138.7	68.6	133	76.2	3.4	10 17 6	—	—	10 17 6	8 19 0	7 1 6	16 0 6	9	
9	Pygott's Village	Infant	2	63	34	54	14	29.2	2.8	2 6 4	—	—	2 6 4	1 12 4	1 12 5	3 4 9	10	
10	Five Islands	Mixed	1	63½	42	67	30	44.9	3.3	—	—	—	5 17 0	2 18 8½	3 0 0	5 18 8½	11	
11	Gracehill	Juvenile	1	80	53	68.7	36	45	3.5	—	—	—	4 18 0	2 2 6	3 0 2	5 2 8	12	
12	"	Infant	2	79½	24½	48.1	34	47	3.3	—	—	—	7 4 0	3 1 2	3 14 6	6 15 8	13	
13	Barn's Hill	"	1	50½	24½	72	72	73.7	2.4	—	—	—	2 16 6	1 2 6	1 10 10	2 13 4	14	
14	Grace Field	Mixed	2	97½	71	61.1	50	46.3	3.6	—	—	—	7 18 0	4 5 7	4 8 2	8 13 9	15	
15	Grace Bay	"	1	108	66	61.1	50	46.3	3	8 8 0	0 18 0	—	9 6 0	4 4 5	4 15 0	8 19 5	16	
16	Urtin's Village	Infant	1	52	28	54	12	23	2.7	2 8 0	—	—	2 8 0	1 6 6	1 10 0	2 16 6		
										—	2 10 0	—	106 17 0	59 1 3½	61 4 9	120 6 0½		
WESLEYAN SCHOOLS.																		
1	Parham	Mixed	2	119	74½	62.4	54	45.4	3.1	12 12 0	—	—	12 12 0	2 11 6½	6 1 0	8 12 6½		
2	Freemanville	"	1	86½	49	58.8	15	17.3	2.9	9 0 0	—	—	9 0 0	1 13 7	4 4 6	5 18 1		
3	Free Town	"	2	112½	66½	59.2	29	25.8	2.9	12 0 0	—	—	12 0 0	9 9 10	5 13 0	8 16 10		
4	Sion Hill	"	1	48½	21	43.4	—	—	2.1	3 10 0	—	—	3 10 0	0 16 1½	1 13 10	2 9 11½		
5	Bethesda	"	2	114	71	62.3	83	72.8	3.4	10 10 0	0 7 6	—	10 17 6	2 16 8	5 8 0	8 4 8		
6	Sawcolts	"	1	No Return.	Average Attendance under 20.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
										47 12 0	0 7 6	—	47 19 6	11 1 9	23 0 4	34 2 1		
PRESBYTERIAN AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS.																		
1	Potter's Village Presbyterian School	Mixed	2	64½	42	66.9	21	39.4	3.3	2 11 1½	1 6 0	—	3 17 1½	1 5 1½	2 6 8½	3 11 10		
2	St. George Union School	"	1	85	54	63.5	"	"	3.5	2 14 4	—	—	2 14 4	0 17 4	*2 10 0	3 7 4		
3	Parham Private School	"	1	38	25	65.8	"	"	3.7	—	—	—	1 2 5	1 2 5	*1 0 0	2 2 5		
4	New Street	"	1	48	35	73	"	"	3.5	—	—	—	0 10 2	0 10 2	*1 0 0	1 10 2		
General Total										252 12 0½	90 3 5	—	252 12 0½	132 12 11½	232 14 4½	232 14 4½		

Enclosure 2 in No. 18.

ANTIGUA.

Encl. 2 in
No. 18.

SIR,

Mico Institution, Buxton Grove, 30th June 1858.

I have the honour to enclose, for your excellency's information, an abstract of the last quarterly returns of the normal department of this institution, from which you will perceive it has been in operation for the last twenty years, and that during that period, out of 274 persons entering the institution, 217 have completed their course of training, and have received appointments to schools in the islands of these West Indies.

Your excellency is doubtless aware that the institution offers its advantages equally to all classes of the native population of these islands, without reference to denominational religious profession, state, or condition; the simple requirement from candidates for admission is, that they consent to conform to the "rules and regulations" of the institution, as set forth in the printed circular, a copy of which I enclose. The student provides his clothes and books; the charity provides every other necessary. The average cost of each student for board, washing, and medical attendance will be about 20*l.* per annum, and the gross charge upon the funds of the charity for salaries of teachers, board of students, and other ordinaries will be about 1,000*l.* per annum. The original cost of the property, and the interest on that cost as an annual rental, I do not notice. There have been other large expenses from time to time for rebuilding, repairing, and enlarging. During the past ten years that I have been agent for the trustees and superintendent of the institution, I have expended in ordinary and extraordinary repairs and alterations about 1,800*l.* sterling.

The charity provides, on the before-mentioned terms, for fifteen students in regular attendance; and we have them from the three governments of Antigua, Barbadoes, and Demerara. Five years ago it was submitted to the trustees to admit a larger number of students, on the payment of \$100 per head per annum, and they consented to receive a number from Demerara on these terms, the government voting the cost as above stated.

The institution is now open for the admission of persons generally on such conditions; and I take the liberty to suggest to your excellency, whether a portion of the grant made by the legislature of this island for educational purposes might not be legitimately and advantageously applied in preparing persons for the duties of teachers for the schools of this island.

Should your excellency deem the institution deserving your favourable notice, or should you be disposed to notice favourably our recent examination, I feel confident such notice would be very acceptable to the trustees of the charity, who, living at such a distance, must rely on the observation of visitors such as honoured us with their presence on Wednesday last. I have taken the liberty to leave the "Visitors Remark Book" at Government Office, that your excellency may have the opportunity of expressing an opinion, a copy of which I shall have great pleasure in transmitting to the trustees.

I have, &c.

(Signed) SIDNEY STEAD.

To His Excellency Ker B. Hamilton,
Governor-in-Chief, &c. &c. &c.

Mico Charity Normal School, Antigua.

The acknowledged importance of a properly qualified agency for carrying on the work of instruction renders it unnecessary to urge the propriety of an establishment for training persons intended for the office of teachers of the young.

The trustees of the Mico Charity have endeavoured to supply this desideratum for the West Indies by the institution of normal schools, the one in this island being designed to train teachers for this and the neighbouring colonies.

How far this normal seminary has succeeded in meeting the wants of the churches of these islands the missionaries who have availed themselves of the benefits of this institution by employing teachers who have been trained here will be best able to testify.

The trustees are anxious that no effort shall be wanting to secure the necessary qualifications for the proper discharge of the duties of the office of teacher. The state of the education and the limited means of those who have hitherto applied to become students in this institution, the utter incapacity of some, and the doubtful results from others, have been serious hindrances to the accomplishment of all that has been wished; the state of wages generally, and the consequent small remuneration which has been offered to teachers in many instances, have operated to exclude the talent which it is desirable to engage; and considering the wants of the church, and the circumstances of these islands, the following qualifications of admission cannot be considered higher than is necessary.

Qualifications of Candidates for Admission to the Mico Normal Institution.

1. Age not to be under 18 nor above 25.
2. Certificate of health, with freedom from bodily and mental infirmity.
3. Recommendation from the person whose religious ministrations the candidate has attended, with reference to disposition, mental ability, and aptitude for usefulness.
4. He must read well, spell correctly, write intelligibly, know how to work the four fundamental rules of arithmetic, and be well acquainted with the outlines of Scripture history.
5. He must engage to continue in the institution for two years, to submit to the discipline thereof, and in all things conform himself to the rules and regulations of the establishment.
6. He must provide himself with books to the amount of about 3*l.* sterling, with a suitable supply of clothes, bedding, bed linen, towels, and eating utensils.

ANTIGUA.

The institution will furnish him with food, lodging, washing, instruction, and medical attendance.

The course of instruction will comprise lessons in reading, writing, and arithmetic, English grammar, composition, geography, sacred and secular, history, sacred and secular, with the rudiments of the natural sciences, and vocal music.

Students are required to engage in manual labour within the institution for two hours on each day; the remainder of their time is occupied either in being taught or in teaching on Stow's training system.

At the expiration of two or five years, as may be, from the date of admission, the student, if duly qualified, will receive a certificate of qualification.

And in order to furnish missionaries and others with a guarantee that the work is conducted as its importance demands, the institution is open to daily visitation, on application to the rector, and ladies and gentlemen are hereby respectfully invited to visit the schools.

Rector.

Buxton Grove.

MICO CHARITY.

ABSTRACT of former RETURNS of TEACHERS trained in the NORMAL SCHOOL at BUXTON GROVE, ANTIGUA, from its commencement in June 1838 to this date, viz., June 1858.

FOR WHAT SOCIETY.	Native Males.	Native Females.	Total.
Established Church - - -	32	18	50
Wesleyan Methodists - - -	58	13	71
United Brethren - - -	71	18	89
London Missionary Society - - -	2	—	2
Mico Charity - - -	25	21	46
Government of Demerara - - -	8	—	8
Dismissed or withdrawn - - -	8	—	8
Add total number now in training -	204 19	70 —	274 19
Total - - -	223	70	293

RECAPITULATION.

Total Number entered from Commencement.			Number dismissed as unsuitable, &c.			Number appointed to the Charge of Schools.			Number now in Training.		
Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
223	70	293	41	6	47	153	64	217	19	—	19

30th June 1858.

(Signed) SIDNEY STEAD.

Encl. 3 in
No. 18.

Enclosure 3 in No. 18.

SIR,

Antigua, 25th June 1858.

IN compliance with the request of your excellency, that I should furnish you with some particulars of the nature and history of the murrain or epidemic among cattle which has been prevailing in the island for more than twelve months, I beg to offer a few remarks on the progress, symptoms, and pathology of the distemper as it presented itself under my own immediate observation, and briefly to state what I have obtained from the testimony of others.

After an unusually protracted rainy season, cold northerly winds prevailed for several months, during which period no rain fell, and the face of the country soon began to assume that arid desiccated appearance which is so characteristic in warm climates, particularly during this drying, scorching wind. At this time catarrhal fever or influenza assumed an epidemic form amongst the human species, and was of an unusually virulent type. At a sugar plantation situated on the north-east part of the island, horned stock began to perish in great numbers, and the symptoms and post-mortem appearances induced the proprietors and others connected with the property to believe that the animals had been poisoned; but neither chemical nor other evidence could be elicited to substantiate the conjecture. Soon after this contiguous estates began to suffer great losses in cattle: mules, sheep, and pigs were affected in like manner; and it was observed that the working and best-conditioned cattle chiefly were attacked by the epidemic. I was present at the dissection of several of these cases, and the appearances in every instance presented the same uniform morbid changes, such as congestion and inflammation of several portions of the alimentary canal, the abdominal cavity was sometimes filled with bloody serum, the liver was generally enlarged, and so was the spleen, which in some instances was completely rotten; the

rumen was always dry, and distended with half-digested food. The small and large intestines exhibited traces of inflammation, particularly the rectum, which in some cases was in a gangrenous condition. The lungs were generally gorged with blood, and the heart covered with patches of black extravasation. The whole of the respiratory mucous tract was of a reddish brown colour. The animal was generally attacked at night, being to all appearance in perfect health the previous day. Frequently a slight convulsive shudder with tremors of the limbs ushered in the more urgent symptoms; the animal became depressed, the hair rough and staring, a slight febrile heat of the surface might be detected, and the base of the horns especially was hot. Costiveness was a prominent symptom; the animal generally made ineffectual efforts to empty the bowels, so much so that the tenesmus caused partial prolapsus of the rectum. Rumination ceased entirely; the animal staggered, and at last fell down from exhaustion, accompanied with violent heaving of the flanks; and, on average, from two to twelve hours after the first seizure, the beast expired in convulsions.

The animal was seldom seen till the time for active treatment had gone by; but remedies, even when timeously administered, were almost nugatory, and prophylactic measures were found to be of most avail. The mortality was about 80 per cent.

The epidemic, in my opinion, has its origin in the same mysterious atmospheric agency which produces influenza and pestilential cholera. The force of the poison or morbid agent is concentrated upon the alimentary canal; and it is in this respect different from the pleuro-pneumonia epidemic of Europe, for the organs in the chest are but secondarily affected, and there is no cough nor other symptom of disease of the respiratory organs. It resembles more epidemic enteritis, arising from certain unascertained meteorological phenomena, conjointly with localizing causes, such as deficient pasturage after drought, or its acquiring some deleterious element, most probably from the dew which is deposited abundantly during the dry months of the year, and perhaps from the unwholesome state of the pond water at this season, owing to the presence of vegeto-animal matter in a state of decomposition. Whatever may be the cause, this epizootic disease, like pestilential cholera, is exceedingly capricious in the choice of its locality, not unfrequently leaving estates and districts in its line of march untouched, and deviating from its course to seize upon others in no respects differently circumstanced, apparently. There are a few dropping cases still existing in the western districts of the island.

I have, &c.

His Excellency
the Governor-in-Chief.

(Signed) A. NICHOLSON, M.D.

Enclosure 4. in No. 18.

COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH and GRAND SESSION, Friday 5th June 1857.

Encl. 4 in
No. 18.

The following is the address of his Honour the Chief Justice to the Grand Jury at the opening of the court:

Mr. Foreman and Gentlemen of the Grand Jury,

We are assembled to-day, under a recent Act of the island and the proclamation of his Excellency the Governor, to hold the present session of the court in this place during the unavoidable repair of the court-house. The building does not afford all the accommodation to which you are accustomed, but it is one in which the court has, on a like occasion, been assembled, and in the arrangements your convenience has been consulted as far as circumstances would admit.

The cases which will be submitted for your consideration are not numerous, and will not require lengthened deliberation.

The most serious in point of criminal intent are the charge against a husband for shooting at his wife with intent to murder or do her grievous harm, and setting fire to a dwelling house with inmates therein, but no injury resulted to human life in either case.

In one of these cases the offence is alleged to have been committed on the 6th of March, and the charge was not preferred until the 30th of that month. You will probably find that more than one member of the family was in a state of intoxication; a vice which destroys the peace of families, and too often leads to the commission of other crimes; and, under the circumstances, it will have to be considered whether the parties give a reliable account of what occurred.

There are two cases for cutting and wounding with intent to do grievous harm, preferred under the Act No. 884; one case for assaulting a constable in the execution of his duty; one other charge of assault; a charge of forgery preferred under Acts No. 426 and No. 993; a charge of breaking into a boiling or curing house, and committing larceny therein, under the Act No. 875; five or six cases of larceny of money, bank notes, wearing apparel, and goods; and two cases of obeah.

These cases do not require particular comment, and I have no doubt you will readily dispose of them. When the criminal law shall be amended, and it shall be allowable to present for your information indictments divested of those technicalities which increase length and unnecessarily occupy time, you will find that your duties may be performed with greater satisfaction to yourselves.

The public attention has recently been directed to a decrease in the population, not arising from emigration. It is certain that, as an old settled colony, providentially unvisited by epidemics, the population has not kept pace with the increase visible in some other long settled communities. The island is occasionally subject to drought, and the want of the blessing of water requires to be provided against by human industry. In every country there is some want different in character from the requirements of another country, which Providence may have ordained to engage the sedulous forethought and provident industry of the inhabitants. Your great want is a more abundant supply of water; and so far as human life is concerned this want could be provided for.

ANTIGUA.

We have conspicuous examples in ancient and modern times of the munificence of individuals in procuring a supply of water for cities and towns. The generous Atticus assumed the completion of the works for supplying the town of Troas with water, at a charge of more than double the amount granted by the emperor; and a noble Parsee in our days has supplied the city of Poonah with water at his own cost.

By your ancient laws it was required that cisterns should be built on plantations; but since the change of society which rendered that law inoperative there has been no substituted legal provision. The procurement of pure water requires capital and combined labour, which the poor have not, and cannot of themselves bestow; and I should be glad to see a beneficent principle introduced into the local legislation in this particular. In Barbados it was found that the supply of pure water for the use of the police at their stations, in lieu of the water which they had been accustomed to drink, caused their freedom from diseases attributable to the use of impure water from which they had suffered. The mortality, therefore, in this island, may be, in some measure, owing to the insufficient supply of good drinking water. Cleanliness, comfort, wholesome food, and pure water are great preventives to crime; and the last want may be supplied in part by legislation and in part by the liberality of the owners of plantations, in causing the erection of tanks or cisterns in connexion with the public buildings and works on plantations.

Your will have the goodness to make your customary visit of inspection to the gaol, in which there are at present 93 prisoners. With reference to their state of instruction, there are 13 who can read and write, 14 who can read only, and 66 who can neither read nor write.

Enclosure 5 in No. 18.

The REPORT of the REGISTRAR-GENERAL of BIRTHS and DEATHS for 1857.

MESSAGE from the GOVERNOR-IN-CHIEF, enclosing ANNUAL REPORT of REGISTRAR-GENERAL of BIRTHS and DEATHS.

KER B. HAMILTON.

THE Governor forwards to the Council and Assembly the report of the registrar-general of births and deaths for the year 1857.

The Governor earnestly recommends this report, containing suggestions for the amelioration of the condition of the people, to the consideration of the Council and Assembly.

The Governor particularly calls attention to the 10th paragraph, in which it is stated, that in comparatively few cases of disease in the rural districts, producing death, has the aid of a medical man been procured. This fact shows the necessity of medical aid being provided for the mass of the people.

Government House, 4th February 1858.

SIR,

Colonial Secretary's Office, 29th January 1858.

I HAVE the honour to submit, for your excellency's information, abstracts of the registers of births and deaths for the year 1857. Such tables are required by the Registration Act to be annually laid before the Governor and the Council and Assembly; and I avail myself of the opportunity for calling attention to facts exhibited by these returns, which are noticeable as compared with European statistics of a like character.

2. I could have wished to collate the results of similar investigation in places where the social condition of the people more nearly resembles our own. But I am not aware of any West India colony in which such information has hitherto been collected. In the absence of such standards of comparison, I can only use those afforded by the reports of the registrar-general in Great Britain, and some that have been obtained from foreign countries.

3. While it is gratifying to find that upon the whole year the births exceed the deaths by 169, yet in many important particulars the present returns are unsatisfactory.

4. In all countries the mortality among young children, especially infants under the age of one year, is exceptionally large; but instead of the proportion, which is about the average of England, 22·5 or 22½ per cent., during the past year it has been in this island, including stillbirths, 34·4 or nearly 34½ per cent. And this very high number is remarkable, because if the deaths of infants under one year is subtracted from the total, the mortality among young persons up to the age of fourteen is by no means great, being only 13·8 or 13·8·10 per cent. of the return for the rest of the population.

5. The ratio of still-born children in comparison with the total births is 10·4, or nearly 10½ per cent., being distressingly and almost unaccountably in excess of the English proportion, which is 4·5, or 4½ per cent.

6. Yet more remarkable is the number of illegitimate births, which is 54 per cent. of the total, as against 6·7-10 per cent. for the whole of England, where in no locality does the proportion exceed 20 per cent. of the whole.

7. The proportions of births and of deaths to the total population of the colony are both larger than those of European countries. The number of births in England is about 3·1-10 per cent. (3·1 per cent.) in this colony it has been 4·1-5 (4·2). Deaths in England annually average about 1 in 46 of the population, in France 1 in 42, in Russia 1 in 28. Unfortunately this colony exceeds even the largest of these rates, and gives a proportion of 1 in 26, or 3·8-10 per cent. Both births and deaths are by far the most numerous in the last quarter of the year.

Encl. 5 in
No. 18.

8. The classification of causes of death exhibits an amount of mortality from tubercular diseases and affections of the respiratory organs, which may appear surprising to some who have been accustomed to regard a tropical climate as conferring a certain immunity from diseases of this character. The white population, indeed, appear to suffer little from them, as there are but 10 deaths recorded for the year as arising from such causes among this class. But the total number tends to verify the observation made by Dr. Adam Nicholson in the Holberton Hospital Report for the last quarter, that consumption is one of the chronic diseases of this island.

9. "Zymotic diseases" and those of the "organs of digestion" may be considered as comprehensive general, including many species of disease, some indigenous in all parts of the world, and others more specially endemic in the tropics. Therefore we may naturally expect high figures to be found under these heads.

10. It is right to observe that much difficulty has been found, perhaps in the majority of instances in the rural districts, in obtaining authentic information as to the nature of the illness causing death. In comparatively few cases has the aid of a professional man been procured. Of necessity, therefore, the registrars have been left to form their own conclusions from such knowledge as was afforded. But from the mode of classification used, which is that adopted by the registrar-general of England, the registrars have been able to arrive with tolerable accuracy at the class of diseases to which a death was to be attributed, although without the means to decide the peculiar cause.

11. With regard to the general operation of the Registration Act, I have the satisfaction to report that it has been quite as successful as there could have been reason to expect. There has been little difficulty in carrying out its provisions. But few instances, comparatively, have occurred where it has been necessary to enforce penalties for neglect to make returns. And naturally it may be anticipated that when compliance with regulations of yet recent institution shall have become more a matter of course still fewer instances of this kind will occur.

12. It would be advantageous if provision could be made for periodical returns to the district registrars, from the clergy, of baptisms as well as burials. A check would thus be supplied, valuable in many respects. I annex a return of the aggregate baptisms and burials for 1857, from which it will be perceived that a large discrepancy exists between the number of births and that of baptisms. It does not appear, as far as I have the means of judging from the total numbers, that any interments have taken place during the past year after baptism without religious offices, a subject adverted to in the 6th paragraph of the report on the census of 1856; but the additional returns I suggest would afford for the future more complete information on this point.

13. Consideration of the facts disclosed by the returns which are the subjects of my remarks places in a strong light the need which exists for legislative effort to supply medical aid to at least the younger members of the population.

I have, &c.
A. MUSGRAVE,
Registrar-General.

No. 1.—ABSTRACT of TOTAL BIRTHS and DEATHS in each QUARTER of the Year 1857.

QUARTERS.	No. of Births.	LEGITIMATE.		ILLEGITIMATE.		COMPLEXION.			No. of Deaths.	ADULTS.		UNDER 14 & OVER 1 YEAR.		1 YEAR & UNDER.		COMPLEXION.		
		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Black.	White.	Coloured.		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Black.	White.	Coloured.
Quarter ended—																		
31st March -	287	76	64	72	75	185	25	77	357	120	113	20	13	50	41	244	28	85
30th June -	355	100	80	83	92	256	30	69	278	77	87	11	8	48	47	198	13	67
30th September -	394	79	79	123	113	281	18	95	289	87	67	20	9	51	55	209	8	72
31st December -	479	104	114	141	120	346	39	94	422	110	99	17	24	90	82	290	33	99
TOTALS -	1,515	359	337	419	400	1,068	112	335	1,346	394	366	68	54	239	225	941	82	323

ANTIGUA.

No. 2.—CLASSIFICATION OF CAUSES OF DEATH for the Year ended 31st DECEMBER 1857.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	No. OF DEATHS.	ADULTS.		UNDER 14 AND OVER 1 YEAR.		1 YEAR AND UNDER.		COMPLEXION.		
		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Black.	White.	Coloured.
I.—SPECIFIED CAUSES.—A. GENERAL DISEASES.										
Zymotic (Epidemic, Endemic, or Contagious) -	155	30	35	17	12	38	23	107	18	30
B. SPORADIC DISEASES.										
Dropsy, Cancer, and other diseases of uncertain or variable seat - - - - -	96	38	28	15	12	2	1	67	3	26
Tubercular diseases - - - - -	112	52	52	3	3	—	2	74	4	34
Diseases of the Brain, Spinal Marrow, Nerves, and Senses - - - - -	84	31	20	3	1	17	12	54	8	22
Diseases of the Heart and Blood-vessels - - -	39	25	11	—	1	1	1	28	3	8
Diseases of the Lungs and other Organs of Respi- ration - - - - -	80	22	21	2	2	19	14	59	4	17
Diseases of the Stomach, Liver, and other Organs of Digestion - - - - -	164	70	40	7	10	22	15	107	17	40
Diseases of the Kidneys - - - - -	7	5	1	—	—	1	—	3	1	3
Childbirth, diseases of the Womb, &c. - - -	9	—	9	—	—	—	—	6	1	2
Rheumatism, diseases of the Bones, Joints, &c. -	13	6	5	1	1	—	—	8	2	3
Diseases of the Skin, Cellular Tissue, &c. -	35	17	16	1	—	1	—	24	—	11
Malformations - - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Premature Birth and Debility - - - - -	74	4	7	1	1	59	32	52	8	14
Atrophy - - - - -	23	10	7	1	—	1	4	15	2	6
Age - - - - -	114	38	76	—	—	—	—	93	—	21
Sudden - - - - -	3	2	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	1
Violence, Privation, Poison, Intemperance, &c. -	13	8	1	2	1	1	—	6	3	4
Still-born - - - - -	158	—	—	—	—	76	82	127	4	27
II.—CAUSES NOT SPECIFIED - - - - -	167	36	37	14	10	31	39	109	4	54
TOTALS - - - - -	1,346	394	366	68	54	239	225	941	82	323

No. 3.—NUMBER of BAPTISMS and BURIALS for the Year 1857.

	BAPTISMS.		BURIALS.	
Parish of Saint John - - - - -	394	452		
" Saint Mary - - - - -	88	24		
" Saint Paul - - - - -	68	43		
" Saint Philip - - - - -	74	35		
" Saint Peter - - - - -	86	73		
" Saint George - - - - -	109	58		
Church of United Brethren - - - - -	224	219		
Wesleyan Society - - - - -	77	104		
TOTALS - - - - -	1,120	1,008		

MONT'SERRAT.

MONT-
SERRAT.

No. 19.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HAMILTON to the Right Honourable Lord
STANLEY.

(No.-58.)

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
May 25, 1858.
(Received June 15, 1858.)

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit a Despatch from the President of Montserrat forwarding the Blue Book of the island for the year 1857.

2. With the exception of the Liquor Licence Act, under which a revenue is derived of 105*l.*, the whole of the revenue is raised by temporary Acts; and President Rushworth has used great exertions and had great difficulty in inducing the Assembly to impose the taxation necessary to meet the wants of civil government.

3. At the end of the year 1857 there was a deficiency of 493*l.*, which has been paid by a tax on land in the present year specially enacted to meet that deficiency.

4. It is admitted that there are not in Montserrat materials for forming a Council and Assembly, and the President suggests the union of the Council and Assembly into one body, or the legislative incorporation of the island with Antigua.

5. The population being divided into a few proprietors of estates and labourers, it is not to be expected that much attention will be given to general subjects requiring legislation. The present constitution has the effect of hindering the progress of the entire community, and the people would enjoy all the rights of local taxation under a Legislative Council partly nominative and partly elective.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) I have, &c.
KER B. HAMILTON.

Enclosure in No. 19.

Encl. in No. 19.

SIR,

Montserrat, March 29, 1858.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith to your Excellency the Blue Book of this island for the year 1857, together with the accompanying report.

2. With regard to the trade of the island, the returns furnished exhibit on the one hand a slight falling off in the estimated value of the imports, and on the other an increase in that of exports, when compared with the year preceding, the decrease in the import trade being 1,201*l.* 6*s.* 1*d.*, and the increase in the export trade being 7,169*l.* 0*s.* 0*d.*

3. It must, however, be borne in mind, that the import trade of the colony in the year 1856 exceeded that of 1855 by 6,280*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.*, and, contrasting the two years 1857 and 1855, the trade of 1857 exceeded that of 1855 by 5,079*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*

4. The Act for the imposition of customs duties in this island having been repealed on the 30th July 1856, and a higher rate of land tax levied in their stead, the value of the accompanying returns, for the purpose of forming an exact estimate of the general trade of the island, has been to some extent impaired.

5. The value of the imported articles is returned on these tables by the comptroller of customs as declared to him by the importer at the time of entry; and while on the one hand it may be said, that the circumstance of no duties being chargeable thereon the importer can have no object either in underrating or overstating the real worth of his goods, yet on the other the comptroller, who has likewise to perform the duties of colonial secretary and treasurer, has neither the power nor the means at his disposal for ascertaining whether the cargoes are fully or only partially declared at his office, and from the information given to me on this subject I am inclined to believe that no inconsiderable portion of the present trade of the island is beyond the observation of this officer.

6. The very circumstance of the shipping employed in our trade having in the past year increased 50 per cent. over that employed in the year 1856 incontestably proves the impulse given to the intercourse between this island and the neighbouring communities by the removal of the customs duties, and not only the inhabitants of the town, but a very large portion of the rural population, have availed themselves of the opportunities now at their command of procuring without the intervention of the local shopkeeper their supplies direct from Barbados, where the markets are almost always lower than in either of the more adjacent islands of Antigua and St. Kitts.

7. Of the actual value of this traffic it is impossible to form any accurate data; but it is well known by those engaged in the island trade to be of no slight extent, and has been made the subject of

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SERRAT.

complaint by some of the resident shopkeepers. Of these importations no account has been at all taken at the custom house, and I therefore am of opinion that had the entire import trade of the island for 1857 appeared on the face of the accompanying returns a large increase, instead of the present small decrease, would have been shown.

8. In order to give at one view the best exposition of the commerce of the island, I have annexed to this report returns showing the general import and export trade, as well as the amount of shipping employed therein during the years 1855, 1856, and 1857.

9. To elucidate the actual financial condition of the island more clearly than can be done by a reference to the official tables in the Blue Book, the treasurer has prepared a statement of the revenue and expenditure for 1857, that in one view sets forth all the transactions of the past year, and this document I have also appended to my report.

10. Although the actual receipts in 1857 would have enabled the executive to meet the expenditure of the year, yet the treasury was quite unequal to discharge at the same time the arrears of 1856; to supply the deficiency therefore the legislature in November last passed an Act increasing the first instalment of the land tax payable in March 1858, by an additional rate of 8s. on every 100% of real estate returned for assessment in the island.

11. This additional rate has now been received, and I have the satisfaction of stating that the entire public expenditure of the island to the 31st December last has been cleared off, not only without at all trenching on the revenue of 1858, but leaving out of the additional rate just referred to a surplus of 146*l.* for the service of the present year.

12. I have from my arrival here striven by every means in my power to place the financial affairs upon a respectable footing. In my annual reports for 1855 and 1856 I alluded to the steps I had taken for correcting some of what I consider the worst evils in the former system of the island, and I am glad to say that I have received the co-operation of the Council and Assembly in placing what I trust will prove a final check to the remission of taxes, and the voting grants of money to individuals who may chance to have favour and interest with the members of the legislature. By a rigid adherence also to the rule of issuing no warrant to the treasurer for payments at a future period, I have quite extinguished a description of paper money long known in this island as "treasury orders." During the past year all payments have been made from the treasury either in specie or in notes of the Colonial Bank, and every claim on account of the public service for the present quarter ending the 31st inst. will on the customary vote being agreed to by the legislature be punctually and fully met.

13. As the Land Tax Act, passed in 1855, expires in the present year, it is very essential that the legislature should, without any further delay, determine on the rule that is to prevail with regard to taxation for the future. From resolutions passed in the Assembly, I consider it may for certain be inferred that recourse will again be had to the old three-fold system of duties on imports and exports, and the imposition of a land tax.

14. For the present year, indeed, the two instalments of the land tax, with a duty on imports, may suffice; provided, however, that the Act for the imposition of the latter be not much longer postponed. For 1859 the duties of imports and exports, and a land tax of three-quarters per cent. (the old accustomed rate) would give a revenue adequate to the public service as it exists at present.

15. The difference, however, between the amount received and the amount expended under such arrangement would be so slight in favour of the former, that, unless the community will submit to increased burdens, it will be impossible for the executive to effect any of the improvements that are urgently called for, or, I should say, supply any of the deficiencies that are so much to be deplored in this island.

16. In opening the present session of the legislature, I dwelt upon the necessity of adequate provision being made from the public resources for the maintenance of clergy and teachers, in proportion to the requirements of the community, for the repairs of churches and schoolhouses, and also for securing the services of a properly qualified medical practitioner; beyond, however, a general admission of these deficiencies on the part of the Council and Assembly, I regret I have it not in my power to report further progress.

These wants have, indeed, year after year, been pressed by the executive on the attention of the local legislature. The insufficiency of the ordinary revenue to meet the current expenses of the government, and the unwillingness of the community to submit to special local assessments for these purposes, have been hitherto alleged by both chambers of the legislature as insuperable difficulties for the accomplishment of the desired ends. For my own part, judging from the past, I must confess that I am not sanguine that anything approaching to a satisfactory establishment of the institutions of Montserrat on an efficient and creditable footing will be attained until an improvement has been effected in the present machinery of legislation, either by the union in one body of reduced numbers of the Council and Assembly, or by the complete incorporation of the island with Antigua. To the latter mode, as the one most beneficial to the community, I am, as your Excellency is already aware, the more inclined.

His Excellency the Governor in Chief,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDW. RUSHWORTH.

IMPORTS.

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Estimated value of Imports in 1855	-	-	-	£	s.	d.
" " " 1856	-	-	-	7704	1	11
" " " 1857	-	-	-	13,984	10	6
				12,783	4	5

COMPARISON of IMPORTS for the Years 1855, 1856, 1857.

Articles.	1855.			1856.			1857.		
	Quantity.	Value.		Quantity.	Value.		Quantity.	Value.	
		£	s. d.		£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Asses - -	- - -	-	-	- - -	-	-	12 head	18	0 0
Beer - -	hhds. brls. doz.			hhds. dozen.			hhds. brls.		
	9 26 35	107	6 0	18½ 96	104	10 0	19 87	197	0 0
Butter - -	kegs. lbs.			cwt. qrs. lbs.			cwt. qrs.		
	16 3,178	156	0 9	18 2 12	86	17 6	32 2	146	5 0
Brandy - -	½ cask dems. galls.			330 gallons	146	12 0	342 gallons	136	16 0
Beef - -	5½ barrels	18	8 0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Candles, tallow	cwt. qrs. lbs.			cwt. qrs. lbs.			cwt. qrs. lbs.		
Candles, com-	51 1 24	205	19 5	68 3 14	166	3 0	68 1 23	206	1 5
position -	6 1 8	29	16 10	3 3 20	25	9 0	2 2 20	12	10 0
Cheese - -	11 2 22	30	19 8	7 3 9	26	17 9	17 1 12	43	7 9
Cocoa Nuts -	- - -	-	-	900	3	12 0	-	-	-
Coffee - -	2 1 17	5	18 0	cwt. qrs. lbs.					
Coals - -	30 hhds.	38	0 0	4 2 8	16	0 10	4 0 0	15	0 0
Crackers -	36 barrels	39	7 0	123 hogsheads	161	13 0	207 hhds.	310	10 0
Carts - -	2	20	0 0	35½ barrels	35	5 0	33 barrels	39	12 0
Cigars - -	- - -	8	6 4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Corn - -	- - -	-	-	112 bushels	26	0 0	236 bushels	47	4 0
Drugs - -	- - -	-	-	2 cases	24	9 0	-	-	-
Earthenware -	- - -	-	-	-	42	9 0	-	-	-
Flour, Wheat-	331 barrels.	735	10 0	717 barrels	1,448	0 0	578 barrels	1,156	0 0
Fish, dried -	csks. cwt. qr. lbs.			cwt. qrs. lbs.			cwt. qrs. lbs.		
	53 565 1 19	565	13 0	1,384 2 16	1,026	9 0	1,539 cwt.	1,070	6 0
Fish, pickled -	601 barrels	419	0 0	773 0 14	433	0 0	510 2 4	319	10 0
Furniture -	- - -	-	-	-	160	9 0	-	-	-
Gin - -	demis. galls.			casks. gallons.					
	22 65	22	16 8	2 413	119	12 0	325 gallons	48	15 0
Guano - -	- - -	-	-	hds. pns. bags. brls.					
	- - -	-	-	6 15 27 10	267	0 0	20 tons	400	0 0
Hams - -	cwt. qr. lbs.			cwt. qrs. lbs.					
	2 1 3	7	6 10	6 3 18	29	18 4	-	-	-
Hardware -	- - -	-	-	-	143	3 2	-	-	-
Hard Wood -	1,639 feet.	46	0 0	3,834 feet	77	0 0	-	-	-
Horses - -	1	30	0 0	4	90	0 0	3	96	0 0
Linseed Meal	- - -	-	-	1 cask	4	10 0	-	-	-
Lumber - -	37,860 feet.	168	17 0	83,337 feet	369	10 0	174,000 feet	696	0 0
Lard - -	pails cwt. qr. lbs.			cwt. qrs. lbs.			cwt. qrs. lbs.		
	30 20 0 20	55	10 0	15 2 24	49	11 0	14 2 2	54	4 0
Lime - -	22 barrels	4	8 0	hhds. barrels.			hhds. trcs. brls.		
Machinery -	- - -	-	-	36 140	73	4 0	99 11 360	283	4 0
Meal - -	47 barrels	54	0 0	-	100	0 0	-	-	-
Meal, Rye -	9 „	11	4 0	550 barrels	550	0 0	79 barrels	79	0 0
Merchandise -	- - -	3,245	13 1	23 „	23	0 0	-	-	-
Monument -	- - -	-	-	-	6,164	6 0	-	5,600	0 0
Mules - -	- - -	-	-	1	20	0 0	-	-	-
Nails - -	6 bags	2	10 0	21 head	420	0 0	34 head	680	0 0
Oats - -	269 bushels	42	4 0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oil - -	- - -	-	-	135 bushels	30	15 0	-	-	-
Pipes - -	3 boxes	3	0 0	23 gallons	3	9 0	-	-	-
Plantation	- - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stores - -	- - -	806	8 0	-	142	7 5	-	-	-
Pork, salted -	72 barrels	298	0 0	cwt. qrs. lbs.					
Powder - -	25 lbs.	0	12 0	219 0 26	440	0 0	110½ barrels	386	15 0
Peas - -	12 bushels	2	16 0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pitch - -	- - -	-	-	54 bushels	15	4 0	-	-	-
Puncheons,	- - -	-	-	1 barrel	1	0 0	8 barrels	8	0 0
empty - -	- - -	-	-	101	95	11 0	150	90	0 0

MONT-
SERRAT.IMPORTS—*continued.*

Articles.	1855.		1856.		1857.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	cwt. qrs. lbs.	£ s. d.	cwt. qrs. lbs.	£ s. d.	cwt. qrs. lbs.	£ s. d.
Rice -	44 3 26	39 6 0	57 0 3	57 12 0	36 3 12	14 4 0
Salt -	137 barrels	48 4 0	210 barrels	54 13 4	194 barrels	38 16 0
Snuff -	4 jars	4 14 0	20 lbs.	4 0 0	—	—
Sugar -	3 240 brls. lbs.	20 4 0	43 3 12	159 12 8	22 0 0	61 12 0
Soap -	boxes cwt. qr. lbs.					
	54 56 0 27	81 16 0	60 1 9	49 18 8	33 3 6	37 12 3
Shingles -	74,000	77 10 0	29,000	35 0 0	170,000	170 0 0
Staves -	600	3 12 0	—	—	—	—
Sundries -	—	—	—	220 7 6	—	—
Tar -	—	—	1 barrel	1 0 0	—	—
Tallow -	—	—	cwt. qrs. lbs.		—	—
	—	—	2 2 23	2 4 2	—	—
Tea -	2 chests.	11 14 0	5 chests	20 0 0	—	—
	cwt. qr. lbs.		cwt. qrs. lbs.			
Tobacco -	24 0 6	84 0 0	26 3 19	64 5 0	40 cwt.	160 0 0
Vinegar -	—	—	7 gallons	1 8 0	—	—
	casks. dozen.				hhds. qr. casks. cs.	
Wine -	11 1	81 0 0	9 qr. casks	86 1 2	3 5 57	161 0 0
Wood Hoops -	2,540	13 4 0	122 bundles	54 19 0	—	—
		7,704 1 11		13,984 10 6		12,783 4 5

EXPORTS.

		£	s.	d.
Estimated value of Exports in 1855	-	19,968	2	0
" " 1856	-	17,613	8	0
" " 1857	-	24,782	8	0

COMPARISON of Exports for the Years 1855, 1856, 1857.

Articles.	1855.		1856.		1857.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Cattle -	156 head	482 0 0	305 head	915 0 0	263 head	1,052 0 0
Copper, old -	1 Parcel	6 0 0	—	—	—	—
Corn, Indian -	—	—	40 bushels	10 0 0	—	—
Horses -	2	18 0 0	4	40 0 0	16	160 0 0
Iron, old -	—	—	4 tons	16 0 0	—	—
Molasses -	250 puns.	1,170 0 0	180 puncheons	720 0 0	378 punches.	2,268 0 0
Metal, old -	1 parcel	5 0 0	—	—	—	—
Potatoes -	—	10 0 0	—	—	—	—
Rum -	puns. hhds.					
	170 4	1,374 0 0	69 puncheons	586 10 0	49 punches.	441 0 0
Sugar -	hhds. tres. brls.		hhds. tres. brls.		hhds. tres. brls.	
	767 246 222	16,456 0 0	600 225 184	14,935 0 0	841 237 161	20,303 10 0
Sheep -	—	—	47 head	23 10 0	96 head	48 0 0
Staves -	—	50 0 0	—	—	—	—
Tamarinds -	20 barrels	17 0 0	110 barrels	143 0 0	49 barrels	73 10 0
Timber, boat	36 pieces	7 10 0	—	—	—	—
Turace -	24 barrels	1 12 0	60 barrels	15 0 0	54 barrels	10 16 0
Wood, fire -	585 cords	371 0 0	349 cords	209 8 0	751 cords	425 12 0
		19,968 2 0		17,613 8 0		24,782 8 0

EXPORTS—continued.

MONT-
SERRAT.

COMPARISON of the quantity of Sugar exported in the years 1855, 1856, 1857.

1855.			1856.			1857.		
Hogsheads.	Value.		Hogsheads.	Value.		Hogsheads.	Value.	
968	£	s. d.	773	£	s. d.	1,019	£	s. d.
	1,6456	0 0		14,935	0 0		20,303	10 0
			1855.	1856.		1857.		
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Value of hogsheads of sugar			- - 17 0 0	- - 20 0 0	- - 20 0 0	- - 20 0 0	- - 20 0 0	- - 20 0 0

SHIPPING.

NUMBER of Vessels that have entered Inwards and cleared Outwards during the years 1855, 1856, 1857.

1856.						1856.						1857.					
Inwards.			Outwards.			Inwards.			Outwards.			Inwards.			Outwards.		
No.	Tons.	Men.	No.	Tons.	Men.	No.	Tons.	Men.	No.	Tons.	Men.	No.	Tons.	Men.	No.	Tons.	Men.
134	4,108	696	129	3,633	665	157	4,418	661	155	4,353	653	244	6,516	1,130	240	6,492	1,020

STATEMENT of the Revenue and Expenditure of Montserrat for the year 1857.

EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	REVENUE.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Civil, judicial, and ecclesiastical establishments	1,057	3	6				Cash in chest on 31st Decem-ber 1856	-	-	-	4	12	4½
Poor establishment	417	8	11				Land tax	1,752	15	0½			
Gaol do.	57	7	7				Liquor licences	105	0	0			
Road do.	11	0	1				Fines, penalties, and forfeitures	62	18	11½			
Printing	8	4	10				Boat and porters' licences	3	6	8			
4th Instalment and interest of the loan	797	18	11				Proceeds of sale of loan encum-bered estates	725	2	9½	2,649	3	5½
Miscellaneous expenditure	136	5	11½				Excess of expenditure over revenue	-	-	-	493	15	10½
Total expenditure for 1857	-	-	-	2,485	9	9½							
Arrears of expenditure of 1856	-	-	-	662	1	11½							
				3,147	11	9							
To excess of expenditure as per foregoing re-turn	-	-	-	493	15	10½							
To estimated surplus	-	-	-	146	4	1½							
				640	0	0	By land tax payable in March 1858, raised for the payment of the arrears of 1857	-	-	-	640	0	0

ST. KITTS.

ST. KITTS.

No. 20.

No. 20.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor HAMILTON to the Right Hon. Lord STANLEY.
(No. 52.)

Leeward Islands, Antigua, May 21, 1857.
(Received June 15, 1858.)

MY LORD,

No. 27. St. Kitts.
26 April 1858.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copy of a Despatch from Lieutenant Governor Robinson with the Blue Book of St. Kitts for the year 1857.

2. The satisfactory state of the finances of that colony, in which a settled revenue has been secured for some years, will admit of measures of general utility and sanitary improvement being carried out.

3. The remunerative prices of exported produce is stated to have been attended with the rise of wages of 33 per cent.; and the population being actively employed, there has not during the year been a crime of any magnitude; and the imprisonments for offences have been only 253 in a population of 22,200.

4. The agricultural prospects of the island are most encouraging, and an increase of labour is alone wanted to augment the export of sugar.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley,
&c. &c. &c

I have, &c.
(Signed) KER B. HAMILTON.

Encl. in No. 20.

Enclosure in No. 20.

COPY of DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor ROBINSON to Governor HAMILTON.
(No. 27.)

SIR,

St. Christopher, April 26, 1858.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of St. Kitts for the year 1857.

Revenue and Expenditure.

2. The financial condition of the colony continues satisfactory. The revenue of 1857 exceeds that of 1856 by 3,205*l.* 6*s.*, being respectively, exclusive of the sums raised for immigration purposes, 19,399*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.* and 16,194*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.* The expenditure for the same period is increased by 2,007*l.* 19*s.* 11*d.*, being in 1857 18,041*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.*, and in 1856 16,033*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.*

3. The increase in the revenue may be taken as evidence of the progressive improvement of the island, there being without any additional taxation, an increase under each separate tax or duty, as will be seen by a reference to the comparative statement at pages 30 and 31 of the Blue Book. The revenue of last year exceeds, by several thousand pounds, the largest ever before raised.

1857.

Revenue - £19,399 19 3
Expenditure - 18,041 4 4

4. The increase in the expenditure is attributable to the large outlay upon public works, the particulars of which will be noticed under that head; the ordinary expenditure of the colony has not increased, and the total disbursements during the period under review have been less than the receipts by 1,358*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.*

5. The cash balance in the treasury upon the 31st December last amounted to 5,302*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.*, as compared with a balance of 3,943*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.* upon the corresponding day of the previous year. The real financial position of the colony at the close of the past year will, however, be more clearly explained by the following statement, by which it will be seen that, after deducting the amount of all liabilities to 31st December 1857, there remained a net balance of 3,912*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.* available for the services of 1858:—

		£	s.	d.
Balance in Treasury on 31st December 1857	-	5,302	7	9
Due by Church Commissioners, amount advanced	-	1,000	0	0
Due by Board of Education, amount advanced	-	150	0	0
Total assets	-	6,452	7	9
Deduct liabilities to 31st December 1857	-	2,540	0	0
Net Balance available for the services of 1858	-	3,912	7	9

6. The prospect for the current year is equally satisfactory. I annex a financial estimate for 1858, by which it is calculated that the revenue will exceed the ordinary expenditure by more than 7,000*l.*, a sum sufficient to complete every public undertaking at present in progress, and to carry out several long contemplated measures of sanitary reform.

St. Kitts.

Financial Estimate for 1858.

ESTIMATED REVENUE.				ORDINARY EXPENDITURE.			
			£				£
Balance available from 1857	-	-	3,912	Regular establishment	-	-	8,000
Import duties	-	-	9,800	Public institutions	-	-	2,000
Export duties and house tax	-	-	2,550	Roads and bridges	-	-	1,300
Inwards tonnage and package	-	-	1,000	Schools	-	-	500
Export tonnage on produce	-	-	800	Cemetery	-	-	300
Fines and fees	-	-	400	New edition of laws	-	-	200
Licenses of all descriptions	-	-	900	Incidental and miscellaneous	-	-	500
Miscellaneous sources	-	-	50				
Provision land tax	-	-	500	Total ordinary expenditure	-		£12,800
				Probable balance available for extra-			
				ordinary services of 1858	-	-	7,112
Total	-	-	£19,912				£19,912

7. The Import Duties Act, which expired on the 9th July last, and to which I alluded in my Report accompanying the Blue Book for 1856, has been re-enacted for a term of seven years, "and further until the expiration of the then sitting House of Assembly." By this Act about 10,000*l.* of the revenue of the island, estimated at 16,000*l.*, is secured for at least seven years. The remaining 6,000*l.* is collected under permanent enactments. Thus an income, amply sufficient to meet every requirement of the public service, has been provided for many years to come.

8. Measures have also been adopted during the past year for placing the expenditure under proper control; the most important of these is the reservation to paid and responsible public servants of the power to initiate votes of public money in the Assembly, an amendment long required here, and one essential to an economical administration of financial affairs.

Act, No. 134.
Clause 9.*Public Debt.*

9. There is none.

Military Expenditure.

10. No expense has been incurred on this account. There is no militia or local corps of any description, and the police are numerically insufficient to cope with any popular disturbance. But public attention has lately been awakened to the danger of allowing the island to remain in such an unprotected state, and I have no doubt that an efficient police force, and a local corps of some sort, will shortly be established, sufficient at all events to secure the maintenance of internal order and tranquillity.

Public Works.

11. The expenditure under this head has been as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
1. Repairs of roads, bridges, and watercourses	-	1,385	18 9
2. Repairs of public buildings	-	492	5 2
3. Inclosing new cemetery	-	709	2 8
4. Completing waterworks	-	809	6 0
5. New church, Basseterre	-	3,615	0 4

Total outlay on public works in 1857 - 7,011 12 11

12. The roads, bridges, and watercourses throughout the island are now in a state of efficient repair. The public buildings also, generally, are in good order, with the exception of the parish church of Saint Thomas, Middle Island, which is in a dilapidated state; it will, however, I hope shortly be taken in hand. The enclosing of the new extra-urban cemetery to the leeward of the town of Basseterre is almost accomplished. The works for supplying the town of Basseterre with good water from the mountains,

St. Kitts. an improvement talked of for upwards of a century, have at length been completed, and all classes of the inhabitants appear gratefully to appreciate this great boon.

13. The new church in course of erection in Basseterre progresses favourably in every particular, except that of cost. The original estimate for this work was 3,655*l.*; but as I mentioned in my Report of last year, this amount was found to be insufficient, and a further sum of 3,400*l.* was asked for. The Legislature voted this additional grant in July last; and now a further sum of 3,000*l.* is found to be necessary for the completion of the building. Within the last few days an Act has been passed granting the sum required; so that the total amount voted for this undertaking now exceeds 10,000*l.*, nearly treble the original estimate. The building has been roofed in, and will I think be ready for use in a few months; when completed it will be a credit to the colony.

Act, No. 131.
10 July 1857.

Act, No. 135.

Legislation.

14. Eight Acts have been passed during the last year, the titles of which will be found at pages 54 and 55 of the Blue Book. The most important are, an Act to amend the Laws relating to Aliens, an Import Duties Act, already referred to under the head of Revenue and Expenditure, and an Act to authorize the Appointment of an Executive Council and Administrative Committee, to which last I shall have occasion to revert more particularly in a subsequent part of this Despatch.

No. 127.
3 Feb. 1857.
No. 128.
9 July 1857.
No. 134.
30 Dec. 1857.

No. 125.
31 Dec. 1856.

15. Although not strictly connected with the legislation of 1857 I may mention under this head an improvement which has been carried out during the past year. A new edition of the Laws in force to the 30th July 1857 has been published under the authority of an Act passed at the close of 1856. By omitting in the new edition all such Acts, clauses, and parts of Acts as have expired, been repealed, or had their effect; also all clauses repealing Acts or parts of Acts, and the schedules of all repealed Acts, the whole has been reduced from 743 Acts in five volumes to 133 Acts in one moderate sized 8vo. volume. The work has been neatly and carefully executed at a total cost of only 285*l.*

Political Franchise.—Council and Assembly.

16. In my Despatch No. 35, of the 22d of April 1857, which accompanied the Blue Book for 1856, I reported fully upon the nature and working of the political institutions of this island; I also at the same time submitted at some length my views as to the reforms required in the administrative system, but which the Assembly had shortly before declined to carry out; it is unnecessary, therefore, that I should on the present occasion go over the same ground again. It will be sufficient to state, that since then a new Assembly have been elected who have adopted all my recommendations, and that an Act, precisely similar to the one previously rejected, has been passed, and only awaits Her Majesty's confirmation to be brought into operation.

General Election, Aug. 1857.
No. 134.
Council and Committee Act, 1857,
passed 30 Dec. 1857.

17. The object of this enactment is to establish an effective and responsible administrative system. It provides, first, for the establishment of an Executive Council composed of members of both branches of the Legislature, and holding office by a political tenure; and, secondly, for the appointment of a paid administrative committee of three members, who will be the official organs of communication between the Governor and the Legislative Chambers, and who will further be entrusted, under the supervision of the Executive, with the responsible superintendence of the finances, and the discharge of all those administrative duties of government at present attempted but inefficiently executed by irresponsible unpaid committees of the Legislative Houses.

18. The control of the Legislative Houses over the administration of the Executive Government will thereby be restricted to the constitutional influence which they can at all times bring to bear in their collective capacities. Without overstepping the limits of their legitimate functions, they possess ample and effective securities for good government; and any attempt to obtain more, by an anomalous combination of legislative and executive functions in popular bodies, such as exists here, destroys efficiency and fritters away responsibility.

Population and Immigration.

19. No census has been taken since 1st January 1855. The population was then found to be:

Males	.	.	.	.	9,525
Females	.	.	.	.	11,216
					<hr/>
					20,741

20. Since then the excess of births over deaths has amounted to about 1,150, and the immigration to 265, so that the number of the population at present does not probably fall far short of 22,200. The island has during the last year been free from epidemics.

21. 157 indentured labourers have been imported from Madeira during the past year under the provisions of the Immigration Acts. The fund available for this service, and which is not included in the balance of general revenue before mentioned, amounted on 31st December last to 4,047*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.*

Sr. Kirrs.

Act, No. 107.
" No. 115.
" No. 122.

Sanitary.

22. Measures of sanitary reform are still urgently required here, I therefore again pressed the consideration of them upon the Legislative Houses in my Speech on opening the new Session in September last. The subject, I am happy to report, has been at length taken up in earnest, and three important Bills relating to the public health are now before the Assembly, which will, I have every reason to believe, become law within the course of a few months.

Bill to establish
a Board of
Health.Bill to regulate
Quarantine.Bill to establish
Registration of
Births and
Deaths.

Education.

23. The returns under this head continue satisfactory. The Education Act, which is based upon the principle of affording public aid to the schools in connexion with the different religious denominations, in proportion to the number of regular attendants in each school, provided they are placed under the control and supervision of the Board of Education, has now been in operation for upwards of two years, and is working well. The number of schools receiving grants of public money has increased from 25 in January 1856 to 35 at the close of last year; they are now divided amongst the several denominations as follows:

No 117., passed
17th Dec. 1855

Schools in connexion with the Established Church	-	-	17
Church of the United Brethren called Moravians	-	-	9
Wesleyan Mission	-	-	9

Total Number of Schools receiving public aid - 35

24. The attendance also in the different schools appears to be steadily increasing, and I am glad to say efforts are being made to introduce a better class of teachers, though there is still room for improvement in this most important particular.

25. The tax upon provision grounds, levied expressly for educational purposes, realised last year, without there being any default, 531*l.* 5*s.*; the school fees received from the children during the same period amounted to 207*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.*, making a total of 739*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.* (independent of all private contributions) expended during the year for educational purposes.

Imports and Exports.

26. There is an increase in the estimated value of the imports, as compared with 1856, amounting to 35,576*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.*; the imports for 1857 being returned at 144,581*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.*, and for 1856, 109,005*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.* The exports also exhibit an increase from 137,531*l.* 4*s.* in 1856, to 208,188*l.* 8*s.* in 1857, showing an improvement of 70,657*l.* 4*s.* The exports of the year, it will be observed, have exceeded the imports by 63,606*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.*

27. The increase in the imports is to be ascribed in some slight degree to the circulation amongst the labouring class of an unusually large expenditure upon public works, and also to the substitution of imported food for the vegetable products of the island, the cultivation of provision grounds having diminished by nearly one third; but it must mainly be attributed to the extension of sugar cultivation, and the increased outlay upon the construction and repairs of works caused by the advance in the price of sugar. The imports of 1857 exceed in value those of any year since 1847.

28. The value of the exports also is larger than in any year since 1840. The increase, as compared with 1856, is almost entirely owing to the higher price of produce in the home market; the crop of 1857 being only a little larger than that of the previous year. The following is a statement given to me by one of the principal and most trustworthy planters in this island, showing the prices realised by him on his sugars for the last six years, after paying all expenses of freight, insurance, duty, and merchants' charges at home:—

ST. KITTS.

			£	s.	d.	
Crop of	1852	averaged	12	10	0	per Hhd. of 16 Cwt.
"	1853	"	12	0	0	"
"	1854	"	14	5	0	"
"	1855	"	14	7	6	"
"	1856	"	16	10	0	"
"	1857	"	19	10	0	"

Agriculture.

29. In my Report of last year I mentioned that, in consequence of the lengthened drought which prevailed during 1856, it was not expected that the crop then being reaped would exceed 4,000 hogsheads. This estimate, however, I am glad to say, turned out to be considerably below the mark, and the crop of last year yielded a fair average return. The following is a statement of the quantity of produce exported for the last two years respectively :—

		Hhd. of Sugar.	Puns. of Rum.	Puns. of Molasses.
1856	- -	5,884	1,420	1,739
1857	- -	6,512	1,115	1,952

30. The agricultural prospects of the present crop are most encouraging, and if sufficient labour can only be obtained to take off the ripe canes now on the ground, the island will probably make a larger return than it has done in any year during the present century; there being, it is estimated, a breadth of land under cultivation sufficient to yield 12,000 hogsheads. But as I have often before explained, the planter's chief difficulty here at all times is the want of continuous labour; this difficulty is at present aggravated by the increased demand, and I regret to learn that the unusually fine crop of the present year is being reaped at a double sacrifice, both a neglect of next year's crop and a rise in the price of wages of fully 33 per cent.

*Gaol and Prisoners.*Return of Con-
victs, 1857.

31. I forward with this Despatch a return showing the number of convicts sentenced to imprisonment during the past year, with the nature of their offences, by which it will be seen that both in number and character the offences are similar to those of the preceding year. There has not been a crime of any magnitude; and the total number of convicts sentenced to imprisonment during 1857 amounted only to 253, out of a population of 22,200, or in the proportion of 1·13 per cent.

Conclusion.

32. In conclusion I would beg to observe that, having on former occasions reported fully upon the moral, social, and political condition of the colony, I have endeavoured in this Despatch to avoid any unnecessary repetition, and to confine my observations to a review of the principal events of the past year as shown in the Blue Book returns now forwarded. These returns are, upon the whole, satisfactory. They afford evidence of improvement in the material interests of the island, and record the adoption of measures well calculated to remedy the evils existing in the administrative system of government, and to establish the financial prosperity of the colony upon a solid basis.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERCULES G. R. ROBINSON.

His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief,
&c. &c. &c., Antigua.

RETURN of the NUMBER of CONVICTS sentenced to Imprisonment, or Imprisonment with Hard Labour, for the Year ending 31st December 1857.

CRIMES.

1st. *Against the Person :*

Murder	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Culpable homicide	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Assault, with intent to murder	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rape, or assault with intent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unnatural offences, or attempts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assaults	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31

32

2d. *Against Property with Violence :*

House, &c. breaking with intent to steal, and theft	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

3d. *Against Property without Violence :*

Cattle, horse, and sheep stealing, theft or receipt of stolen goods, &c.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	93
Frauds, embezzlement, Vagrant Act	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3

96

4th. *Malicious Offences against Property :*

Arson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Other malicious injuries of property	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Forgery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

1

5th. *Other Offences :*

Abusive language	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26
Aiding prisoners to escape	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Conspiracy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Contempt of court	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Cruelty to animals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Contract Act	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Disorderly conduct	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	49
Exposing person	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Forcible possession	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Game laws	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Merchant Seamen's Act	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
Perjury	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Petty Trespass Act	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Poundbreach	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Resisting police	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Revenue laws	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unauthorized detention of property	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Uttering counterfeit coin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Driving unlawfully through the streets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Porters and Boatmen Act	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Riding furiously in the street	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

124

Total . . . 253

NEVIS.

NEVIS.

No. 21.

No. 21.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HAMILTON to the Right Hon.
Lord STANLEY.

(No. 32.)

Leeward Islands, Antigua, March 23, 1858.

(Received April 19, 1858.)

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of Nevis for the year 1857, with the report of President Sir Arthur Rumbold.

2. That island has been in a state of public financial embarrassment for some time, in consequence of the substitution of direct for indirect taxation, and the abolition of all import duties.

3. The imposition of direct taxation fell heavily on one class of persons, and was constantly evaded and unwillingly submitted to. The negro population is averse to direct taxation; and, in a small community, where there are only a few importing merchants without general competition, the mass of the people did not benefit by the removal of import duties, the amount of which was diverted from the Treasury to the importing class.

4. Sir Arthur Rumbold has exerted himself with zeal, ability, and success to put the finances in a just position and to improve public credit.

I have, &c.

(Signed) KER B. HAMILTON.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 28.
4 March 1858.

Encl. in No. 21.

Enclosure in No. 21.

COPY of a REPORT from President Sir ARTHUR RUMBOLD to
Governor HAMILTON.

(No. 28.)

SIR,

Nevis, March 4, 1858.

I have the honour to forward the Blue Book for this colony for the year 1857.

2. I am happy to be able to report that the prospects of the colony have assumed a healthier aspect in consequence of the material augmentation of the Revenue.

3. On the 4th March 1857, when I assumed the administration, the fixed revenue stood thus:—

	£
Tax on Sugar Estates	1,400
„ other real Estates	300
„ Incomes	400
„ Cattle	130
„ Boats	75
Total	<u>£ 2,305</u>

4. On the 4th of June last I had the satisfaction to assent to an Act imposing an excise duty on rum and other spirituous liquors consumed in the island, the revenue derived from which may be estimated at £ 700

5. On the 30th of January last I assented to an Act imposing certain duties on imports, which, at the most moderate estimate, will yield 2,000
£ 2,700

6. From this amount must be deducted the expenses of collection on excise duties, at 5 per cent. on 700L., 35L.; customs officers' salaries, 290L.; Treasurer's commission, 5 per cent. on 2,700L., 135L. 460

Net total £ 2,240

7. The amount of both these taxes is placed at the lowest estimate. I may fairly therefore assume, as the former fixed revenue remains intact, that the sources of revenue have been doubled within twelve months, should, as I confidently anticipate, the royal assent be given to the Import Act.

8. Other measures of importance have likewise progressed; among them, an Act for organizing a paid police, which has just been published. This Act, by the combination of the police constables with the revenue officers and other performance of coast guard duties, will render the force nearly self supporting through the material increase which must accrue by their supervision and consequent suppression of smuggling.

9. On my first arrival I found hybrid police in existence on sufferance; the law embodying it had expired, and the absence of legislative authority, or means to pay the men, compelled me to disband them on the 1st of last September. I have, however, the pleasing duty to perform of recording my unqualified gratification at the general peaceable and orderly behaviour of the inhabitants of Nevis; for, despite the freer scope thus afforded to outrage and lawlessness, crime has not been increased, nor have acts of violence been multiplied; and, with the exception of perhaps some occasional disorder in the town, the want of a paid police has in no other way been evidenced.

10. The Legislature have lately resolved that the gaol shall be rebuilt, a joint committee of both houses having reported, on the 29th October last, "that a gaol and house of correction, a station for police, and a residence for the turnkey and matron should be re-erected within the old gaol yard in Charlestown, with suitable offices." A plan and estimate accompanied the report which showed that this important building could be re-erected at the small cost of 700*l*. A high wall is already in existence enclosing the whole premises.

11. The recent augmentation of the revenue and the advanced stage of other measures which may be effected without undue pressure on any class lead me confidently to hope that the rebuilding of the gaol will be speedily undertaken and completed.

12. I refer with, I trust, justifiable satisfaction to the further results of my administration, by citing the actual relief afforded to the ill paid class of public officers, whose claims up to the 1st of last October I shall be in a position to liquidate shortly, which will leave them six months in arrears in lieu of over twelve, as was the case in March 1857. I also entertain the hope that in May, when the first instalment of the estate tax falls due, I shall be enabled to pay salaries up to the 1st of January, after making proper provision for the earthquake loan instalment. I further anticipate that, in the absence of large unforeseen contingencies, Nevis will in less than two years redeem her debt, attaining this object perhaps yet more speedily by the issue of debentures to be guaranteed by the import duties, as soon as Her Majesty's pleasure on the Act imposing them shall be known.

13. The imports present no remarkable feature; they have, as in last year, approximated more to the figure at which they stood while the imperial customs existed, and below which they immediately fell under colonial supervision. During ten years of imperial customs, from 1838 to 1847, the imports averaged 38,600*l*. (a figure which has not since been attained); from 1848 to 1855, under the colonial customs, the average was 18,554*l*. But during these years, also, the market for colonial produce was much depressed. The increase in 1856 to 34,449*l*. cannot be ascribed solely to the opening of the ports, or to the operation of free trade, as it was styled, in Nevis, though her system was not based on reciprocity. All merchandise entered Nevis free of duty from all ports and nations, which only received her produce after the collection of a heavy debt thereon. The small increase of 1,805*l*. in this last year over 1856 may be accounted for, in a great measure, by the high price ruling in the beginning of the year for all West Indian produce.

14. In some communities other means of taxing the people for the purpose of revenue may be found to answer; but, considering of what class the bulk of population of a West Indian community consists, I would reiterate the expression of my conviction that the only practicable way of collecting, and dividing the taxes equitably, in these colonies must be, for years to come, by indirect means. During the two years in which the port of Charlestown was open the import duties were not taken off, even temporally, from the peasantry, for no marked augmentation of traffic resulted, no sensible diminution of price was effected; hence, in my opinion, the remission of duties, which in any case would have been better contributed to the treasury, did not benefit the consumers but went into the pockets of the importing merchants, whilst the state lost a revenue which it was unable to replace from any other source.

15. Since the Act imposing duties on imports was proclaimed the harbour has been visited by several ships of considerable burden, quite equal to any former average at

NEVIS.

the same time of the year; not one vessel has failed to find a market, and as great a diminution in prices has taken place as would have resulted had the port remained open.

B. Guiana,
Mar. 30, 1849.

16. The present lieutenant-governor of British Guiana, Mr. Walker, has stated in a despatch, that "it may be remarked, as illustrating how little the modification of indirect taxes affects the comforts of the population, that, with the exception perhaps of foreign spirits with which the country has been almost literally flooded, no sensible diminution of price has been felt by the consumer in consequence of the cessation of all but an almost nominal import duty."

17. My own experience leads me to repeat that which I stated in my report on the Blue Book of this colony for last year, that the abandonment of duties on imports in the West Indies is synonymous with the renunciation of a certain amount of fixed revenue. The great difficulty is to make the system work equitably; by which I mean, to protect the fair trader against the smuggler; when this is effected, I do not conceive that either the commerce of the island or the interests of any class suffer by the imposition of a moderate and well adjusted tariff.

18. The value of the exports amounts to nearly double that of last year, standing thus: for 1856, 27,404*l.*; for 1857, 57,954*l.*; or 1,357 hogsheads of sugar in 1856, valued at 15*l.* a hogshead, against 2,075 hogsheads in 1857, valued at 20*l.* a hogshead; rum and molasses making up the balances. The values I consider are placed at a very low figure; but if 18*l.* to 20*l.* a hogshead could be always realized for sugar, these depressed colonies would soon assume a different aspect, while a higher price is scarcely desirable, as it cannot be maintained; and great fluctuation is too apt to lead men in business with small means into speculations too often resulting in their ruin.

19. I regret to say that, in consequence of the great financial depression which has existed up to the present moment, I have not been able to ask for any grants in aid of education, or medical attendance for the poor, more particularly required for the preservation of human life in infancy. I have not lost sight of these important subjects, and I shall not pretermitt any occasion to advocate the extension of these civilizing and salutary influences.

20. An Act highly creditable to the community has passed the legislature of this island and only awaits the royal sanction; by it a pension is granted, which, under the circumstances of the colony is on a liberal scale, to the late Colonial Secretary, who filled that office for thirty years.

21. The seasons have been unusually favourable, and with the prospects of a large crop, Nevis has room to hope for better days, as she puts forth some signs of a revival of former prosperity.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR RUMBOLD.

His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief.

&c.

&c.

&c.

VIRGIN
ISLANDS.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

No. 22.

No. 22.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HAMILTON to the Right Hon. Lord STANLEY.
(No. 53.)

MY LORD,

Leeward Islands, Antigua, May 21, 1858

Received June 15, 1858.

Enclosure.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a Despatch from the President of the Virgin Islands, forwarding the Blue Book of the colony for the year 1857.

2. In reporting to your Lordship my annual tour of inspection of some of the colonies in this government, I referred to the energetic endeavours of Mr. President Price to promote the growth of cotton in Tortola, and re-open the copper mine at Virgin Gorda. He will, I am sure, also use his best exertions to improve the financial system of the colony, and the state of the prison, to which I have particularly called his attention.

3. The President reports the conduct of the black population as orderly in general, although many young people of both sexes are corrupted by the licentious habits prevailing at the coaling station of Saint Thomas, to which they resort for employment.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) KER B. HAMILTON.

Enclosure 1. in No. 22.

Encl. in No. 22.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. President PRICE to Governor HAMILTON.

(No. 19.)

SIR,

Government House, Tortola, March 23, 1858

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book for the British Virgin Islands for the year 1857.

2. The year 1857 opened with a small cash credit of 5*l.* 4*s.* 0½*d.*, and an outstanding amount of arrears of salary to public officers of 70*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.*, and closed with a credit of 24*l.* 14*s.* 11½*d.*, and a debt to public officers of 296*l.* 12*s.* 11½*d.*, the net balance against the treasury being 271*l.* 18*s.*

A small loan contracted in 1854, for the purpose of effecting at a moment of embarrassment some compromise with unpaid public officers, has been partially liquidated during the past year, as also have some few claims outstanding from the year 1856; but as no provision was exercised by the legislature to make arrangements for these contingencies, and the long expected and hoped for wreck at Anegada did not come to the relief of the exchequer during the past year, it follows that these payments of liabilities have been effected at a sacrifice, the public officers being, as seems to be warranted by a time-honoured usage of very doubtful honesty, the sufferers. The revenue and expenditure for the year do not seem to present any other features which call for remark. The former seems to have reached that degree of regularity which is necessary to enable me to say, that it equals the ordinary yearly expenditure, but it leaves no margin for payment of debt or for provision against contingencies; and the outstanding claims against the colony, trifling though they may be in amount, will inevitably prove a source of much embarrassment in after years, unless some effort be speedily made for increasing the revenue by some 300*l.* or 400*l.* a year.

3. At present it is worthy of remark, that the ordinary income of the Virgin Islands is as nearly as possible equivalent to the amount which Great Britain annually contributes for the maintenance of the establishment, and as the ordinary income about balances the ordinary expenditure. Great Britain therefore contributes as much as one half of the whole expenditure for local government.

Imports and Exports.

4. The total value of the imports for 1857 was 5,634*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.* The total value of the exports for 1857 was 10,848*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.*

5. Of the former, about 1,000*l.* worth came by way of British colonies, and the balance from Saint Thomas. Of the exports, also, Saint Thomas took to the value of 9,302*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.* There are neither imports nor exports direct from or to Europe at the Virgin Islands. The trade, once flourishing, has entirely ceased, and is not likely to revive, until there shall be re-established some staple commodity as an article of export. The article of sugar, I fear, scarcely contributes to our present exports more than what would load one vessel of from 70 to 80 tons within the year.

Legislation.

6. The ordinances passed during the year 1857 were as follows:

“An ordinance for further shortening the language used in ordinances of the legislature of the Virgin Islands.”

“An ordinance to continue in force an Act to impose a tax or impost on all sales made at public auction or outcry, and to compel persons exercising the office or employment of auctioneer to take out licence, and also to compel purchasers, under a penalty, to complete their purchase or purchases.”

“An ordinance to repeal the thirteenth clause of an Act, entitled ‘An Act to impose a tax or impost on all sales made at public auction or outcry, and to compel persons

exercising the office or employment of auctioneer to take out licence, and to compel purchasers, under a penalty, to complete their purchase or purchases.' ”

“ An ordinance to levy a duty on exports.”

“ An ordinance for granting mercantile licences, licences to hucksters, and spirits licences, and for levying a duty on the retail sale of spirituous liquors, wines, and malt liquors within the Virgin Islands.”

“ An ordinance to amend the cattle tax ordinance, 1855.”

“ An ordinance for printing the laws of these islands, and for other purposes.”

“ An ordinance to amend the boat licence, 1855.”

“ An ordinance to amend the general tax ordinance, 1855.”

“ An ordinance to repeal an Act, entitled ‘ An Act to license the sale by retail of the sugar cane and its products.’ ”

“ An ordinance for the payment of costs in proceedings instituted on behalf of the Crown in matters relating to the revenue.”

“ An ordinance for regulating the register office and conduct of the registrar, and appointing his salary and fixing the fees of office.”

“ An ordinance to amend an ordinance, entitled ‘ An ordinance to repeal an Act of the Virgin Islands commonly called ‘ The Road Act for 1844,’ and an Act commonly called ‘ The Amended Road Act for 1854,’ and to make other provision in lieu thereof,’ dated the sixth day of July 1855.”

“ An ordinance to extend the summary jurisdiction of the general court of the Virgin Islands in complaint actions.” And

“ An ordinance to amend the pound ordinance, 1856.”

All of which have been so fully reported upon already on the occasion of their transmission as to call for no further remark here.

There were fourteen sittings of the Legislative Council during the year.

Financial Prospects.

7. The principle of indirect taxation having been, as I think, so wisely abandoned in this scattered colony, the policy of recent legislation has been to spread the levies necessary for the establishment over a variety of direct objects. It has been so widely diffused that it becomes a matter of some difficulty to pronounce any confident opinion as to the financial result of any given period of time. The export duties particularly are dependant upon a demand for our produce at the Island of Saint Thomas, and this is a resource which the British Virgin Islands are not, I think, likely to monopolize for all time. The abandonment of various sugar properties in the Danish Island of Saint John, as well as the attempts which are daily being developed in Saint Thomas itself to render it less dependant on our islands, are causes which may be expected to affect us prejudicially; and the public income from duty on exports being derived principally from necessities which either of those foreign islands could equally well supply, should my apprehensions have foundation the revenue must ultimately suffer. The contingency is perhaps, however, remote, and in the meantime Saint Thomas is so regular an outlet for superfluous stock that for the next few years I think the export duties may not be sensibly affected. The increase in any other branch of revenue seems to depend upon the social improvement of our general population, since it is derived principally from a tax upon a particular class of houses, upon cattle and horses, and upon incomes above 25*l.* per annum.

8. The year under revision has closed, as did the previous one, with a small debt due to the public officers, large enough, however, to require some new taxation, to avoid a similar contingency for the future, and to adjust the present excess of outlay.

9. The simple, and perhaps, under our circumstances, politic expedient of a small land tax, appears to meet with more favour now than was formerly accorded to it; and although there exists, as I shall have occasion to remark, under the head of “ Agriculture,” a large “ landed interest ” somewhat unreasonably opposed to such a measure, I am not without hopes of seeing the principle tested. However this may be, I think the experiences of 1857 will have fully exhibited the folly of depending upon the reefs of Anegada as a regular source of income, through the favouring agency of wrecks, and the duties which they contribute to the treasury, and that the inconvenience and injustice of habitually leaving public officers in arrear is in course of fuller appreciation, so that I am much disposed to anticipate a more favourable state of finance next Christmas than that which marked the bygone year. The prospects of the crop of 1858, and the condition of the labouring classes, are certainly sufficiently cheering (comparatively speaking) to justify the expectation that the revenue will at least suffer no diminution.

Agriculture.

10. The state of agriculture in the British Virgin Islands is, as it seems ever to have been, of the most unrefined and profitless description that it is possible to conceive, while there are valleys of high natural fertility, and slopes on the adjacent hills, where such implements could be most profitably employed. I think I am right in saying that at this moment there is neither to be found a plough or horse hoe within this Government. The rude and inefficient implement handed down to the negro by his slave progenitors is still regarded as the "summum bonum" on the sugar estate, and when to this primeval tillage is added the almost entire disregard of the fructifying influences of manure, it is scarcely a subject for astonishment, that the crop of a favourable season should not exceed some 125 hogsheads of sugar. Were I to carry my observations into the manufactory, or point to the ill-used and sadly galled animals which contribute their questionable strength in the process of grinding the canes, the same conviction follows, that some new stimulus is necessary to awaken the planters of Tortola from the lethargy in which they have so long indulged. For much of the carelessness perhaps the *métairie* system, as it here exists, is answerable. I know of only one planter who by payment of money for service retains in his own hands any power of controlling the issue of his enterprise as a farmer. With this exception, the rule is for the associated labourers to cultivate almost when and how they please, certainly without any systematic and salutary direction, and to wait patiently for the day of settlement, when they receive their quota, generally one half of the crop, the planter placing his works and stocks at their entire disposal for the purpose of its manufacture. Neither does the remuneration which the labourer thus receives for his services appear to me to be adequate to the advantages enjoyed by the people in islands where a money payment is the rule and the share system an exception, nor does the proprietor receive anything like an equivalent for the capital embarked. Still it is perhaps beyond the limited means of either the absentee or resident proprietors to offer our people anything better at present, or sensibly to improve their own position; but the spare time of the steady and industrious negro is not unprofitably spent in labour for the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company at Saint Thomas; while the planter rather depends upon the produce of his flocks and herds than on the particular industry which furnishes his title and designation.

11. The remarks which I have here made do not seem to be so justly applicable to minor branches of agricultural industry. The patches of garden culture, where almost every description of tropical vegetable may be seen in tolerable luxuriance, even at the highest points of our lofty hills, prove satisfactorily that wherever the negro has by the absolute purchase of land obtained an interest in its productiveness that productiveness is in fair process of development. He has become as it were a part of the soil on which he stands. There is a mutual dependence, and the result is all that may be fairly expected at this early date.

12. Unhappily, however, the growth of a peasant proprietary is very much retarded by the circumstances of the country. Much of the land is in the hands of receivers of the court of chancery, and this has attached a suspicion in the mind of the negro to land not in reality so encumbered. He is naturally cautious in his bargains; and although he may be tempted by very advantageous terms as to payment, he seems reluctant to engage in the purchase of any property to which his title cannot be proved to be beyond question. Hence there exist immense tracts of land overrun with bush, utterly useless to the proprietor, utterly unprofitable to the State, but containing resources of the highest value to both, with no obligation to cultivate, and with many impediments beyond disinclination in the way of sale to the labourer. The proprietor may indeed boast of his extended demesne (sometimes several thousands of acres), and yet live in a condition of very doubtful prosperity, constantly hoping for better days, but putting forth for the most part none of his energies for their attainment. I regret to add, that I see little hope of improvement in the cultivation of land in this colony until absolute pressure by the Legislature may for ever break up the system which so unhappily weighs upon it. Meantime, the proximity of Saint Thomas, with its never failing market, offers ample encouragement to small cultivators, to our charcoal burners (a great inducement for the clearing of land), as well as to our fishermen, so that, although there is undoubtedly much room for improvement, no industrious man need ever want the means of existence in the Virgin Islands.

13. On a review of the agricultural features of the Virgin Islands, particularly when taken in connexion with the present deficiency of available labour for extensive field operations, the conclusion which has been so much favoured by others of larger experience than myself is fully participated by me, namely, that they are far better

adapted for the raising of stock than, with the exception perhaps of that of cotton or coffee, any other industry whatever. The fine pastures of both guinea and running grass, reaching to the summits of the mountains, afford almost endless resources to the breeder of stock of all descriptions. The judicious selection of blood for the improvement of the present races seems to be all that is required to render the Virgin Islands capable of supplying a very large proportion of the annual deficiencies of stock throughout the Leeward Islands. The breed of ponies of from $12\frac{1}{2}$ to $13\frac{1}{2}$ hands high is distinguished for many excellent points. Endurance, and admirable feet to sustain the shocks inseparable from running amongst rugged hills, with light and active frames, mark these animals as particularly well fitted for crossing with larger horses. A slight increase in the size of the mares would infallibly lead to the establishment of mule breeding on a more satisfactory plan; and when I add that each of these animals at 3 years old will command from \$100 to \$130 in any of the Leeward Islands, and that the cost of rearing them is so small as to be scarcely appreciable (certainly not more than 50s. a head), the profits of this particular enterprise will be sufficiently apparent. Horned cattle too afford, by sale of fat animals and of butter and milk, an equally remunerative employment for small capital.

14. Of the 37,000 acres of land embraced in the British Virgin Islands, probably as many as one half are admirably suited for the production of cotton; indeed in former days this industry flourished to a considerable and profitable extent. The causes which have contributed to its abandonment have been so clearly delineated by the late Mr. G. R. Porter in his work "Tropical Agriculturist," Smith and Elder, 1833, p.p. 12 and 13, that it would be superfluous for me to remark upon them, except that my own observations and experiments in the growth of cotton entirely confirm what that lamented gentleman has so well advanced. I see no reason, beyond the question of labour supply, why the Virgin Islands should not produce, from cleared land, cotton of the finest descriptions, at the rate of at least one and a half bales of 300 pounds each per acre, and at a cost on the sea shore of about 2d. sterling per pound. The planter is always favoured with two and sometimes with three full pickings annually, and, once established, the cotton plant remains in full luxuriance for fully four or five years, a great advantage enjoyed over the planters in the States of America in this particular. An experiment has been made here by some gentlemen, associated at my suggestion for the purpose, which, notwithstanding the rather heavy cost of clearing the land from underwood, has fully satisfied my mind (if the former large exports of cotton required confirmation of this character) that what is perhaps beyond the capability of any other British settlements in the West Indies, the Islands of Tortola, Virgin Gorda, and the adjacent quays, are capable of making, with a due supply of labour, an annual impression upon the Manchester Markets to the extent of 20,000 bales of the article under discussion. The importation of suitable gins, and careful selection of varieties, would probably lead to further experimental successes, which might ultimately attract capital and labour to give them full effect. The importance of this subject to the Virgin Islands is greatly enhanced by the fact that in them the industries of cotton planting and stock breeding may proceed simultaneously and without at all interfering with each other.

15. To conclude this branch of my Report, I may state that the Sea Island cotton, which has attained such celebrity in the English markets, is supposed, on tolerably good testimony, to have been found indigenous in the Island of Anguilla (some 70 miles hence), whence it passed, through intermediate culture in the Bahama Islands, into Georgia, where it now forms the staple export. Proof sufficient of the capability of the Caribbean Islands to compete with the "Sea Islands" of the southern States of America in its production, as far as quality is concerned, while varieties of probably equal or greater value, such as the "Siam" cotton, will not ripen in the latter islands, although in Tortola it will yield two crops annually.

Common Gaol and Crime.

16. Only two capital offences have marked the record of crime for 1857.

One, of the murder of his friend, while the perpetrator was under the combined influences of liquor, an ungovernable temper, and jealousy; the other one of rape. The other commitments have been for petty offences against the person and property.

17. The condition of the common gaol, I regret to say, continues to justify the report made for 1854 by the inspector of prisons. Lunatics, debtors, criminals, and minor offenders, as well as persons awaiting trial, are confined under the same roof, and the means of classification are of the most limited description.

The recommendations on this subject which have from time to time emanated from the Home Government as well as from the presiding officers have, in common with equally useful suggestions for improvement in other essentials, been met with the plea of

financial embarrassment. It is in some measure favourable to this continued disregard of public improvement, that on the whole the people of the Virgin Islands have, of late years, furnished but few objects for criminal prosecutions.

I append a report upon the state of crime for the year 1857 from Mr. Stipendiary Justice and Queen's Counsel, Charles Lloyd.

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Appendix B.

Public Buildings.

18. The foregoing observations on the common gaol meet with some confirmation from the present untenable condition of four solitary cells. A device for increasing accommodation of this nature, by partitioning one of the larger wards, was carried out, with my sanction, during the past year; but this must be regarded as a merely temporary expedient, and I think that the building will shortly receive such additions and repairs as may take it out of the category in which tourists have been in the habit of placing West Indian houses of correction.

19. The other "public buildings," startling as such an appellation may be as applied to such edifices, are probably, however defective, in as good a state of repair as the colony can easily afford or the climate require.

Education.

20. The hopes held out by my predecessor in the administration of the government, on the diffusion of knowledge amongst the "rising generation," have, so far, met with very partial realization. The report which I annex, from the officiating minister, on the condition of the schools, discloses inefficiency on the part of some of the superintendents, and great irregularity in the attendance of the pupils. The gratuitous education proffered by the Church Establishment receives no preference over that which the Wesleyans supply for a very moderate remuneration to a large assembly of children. The extension of Church principles being confined to the immediate district surrounding the town of Road Harbour, it results that the chapels in the remote situations have fallen into decay, and little more than the name remains, as a record of past exertions, to attach the population to the Establishment.

Appendix C.

21. The regularity and perseverance exhibited by the Wesleyan missionaries in the promulgation of their religious views have met, as might have been augured, the most complete success; and, unprovided as the Church seems to be here with the means of systematic instruction, and the spirit necessary for a successful result, it is a subject for regret that the more active hands of the Wesleyan preachers are not more liberally supplied with the means of educating the youthful population. No provision whatever is made by the Legislative Council for the diffusion of knowledge. I have a lively satisfaction, however, in appending a report from the Wesleyan missionaries, which sufficiently discloses the nature and effect of their unpretending exertions in the cause of education for the labouring classes.

Appendix D.

Concluding Remarks.

22. Perhaps in no part of the British West Indian colonies is the evidence of the effect of the great measure of 1834 more striking than in the Virgin Islands. In none have the depreciation of "estates" on the one hand, and the improvement of the negro's physical condition on the other, presented stronger examples of the searching effects of the policy which dictated that measure. The old dominant race of West India planters, with their handsome hospitality, their regardlessness of the events of the morrow, their gambling, horse racing, and cockfighting, has vanished from the scene, and given place to a well-tempered thrift, and a stern anxiety for the future.

The representatives of that class indeed inherit to the full extent the open-handed liberality which distinguished their ancestors; but the fire burns without the necessary fuel, and, sad though it may be to contemplate the reduced condition of many most estimable circles, a lesson is engraven on the hills of Tortola, from which experiences cannot fail to flow, and to afford in future days a source of solid, if moderate, prosperity.

That the process of elevation of the youth of the decayed class will be rapid there is perhaps little hope, for the habit of waiting upon fortune, and the utter disinclination to adopt modest hard-working employment, which still clings to the race, are so stubbornly ingrained as to preclude for the present any such expectations. Still there becomes daily attached to idleness more odium, and to depravity more shame, and we are not wholly without examples of the silent working of better principles, of more self-dependence, more anxiety to mark out a career of usefulness.

23. If we turn to the more prosperous "lower" class, we find them for the most part engaged in not unprofitable pursuits; many in the possession of comfortable houses and

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well-fed flocks and herds, well clothed, and with an air of independence, not unaccompanied by respectful demeanor, which certainly ought to delight the friends of emancipation. The events of 1853, which led to the almost entire destruction of the only town in the Virgin Islands, appear to be reflected upon with much regret; and, upon the whole, I know of no community of negroes in the West Indies more orderly in their general behaviour, or more likely to afford a favourable example of peasant proprietary, were the means placed nearer within reach. This picture, however, requires a little shading from the mischievous proximity, in some respects, of the island of Saint Thomas. This great outlet for unemployed labour, while it offers many temptations to the steady workman, is, I fear, productive, amongst the youth of our islands, of very lamentable results in a social point of view.

Depravity of every shade may there be freely indulged in, and certainly has so fearfully tinged the young of both sexes as to give rise to grave apprehensions.

24. Probably no more painful example of the baneful effects of long association with the scenes of the coaling wharves at St. Thomas can be found than the utter disrespect and disregard with which their own parents are habitually treated by these young people. On all sides I meet with complaints on this sad subject. The aged are thus left without the support they so much require, and have such a right to expect; and many a comfortable home has been made desolate by the destructive influences prevailing at this great emporium of the West Indies. The remedy can only be found in more solid inducements to remain at home, in the influx of capital to develop our mineral and other resources, and by the extension of better principles through the medium of the schoolmaster. The selection, therefore, of St. Thomas, as a rendezvous for the mail steamers, in preference to a much more convenient and healthy harbour within this Government, has, in my opinion, entailed social consequences on the population of the British Virgin Islands which no commercial advantages from its proximity can in any degree counterbalance. But this is a subject scarcely belonging to a report of this character, although it appears impossible to pass over a circumstance which exercises beyond a doubt so much influence on the social condition of this colony.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. PRICE,

President administering the Government
of the British Virgin Islands.

His Excellency Governor Hamilton,
Antigua.

APPENDIX A.

The cultivation of cotton, which was carried on to a considerable extent in former years in our West India colonies, has of late been almost entirely abandoned there, because the prices in this article in the markets of Europe have fallen so low as to be no longer remunerative, and plantations, which once maintained their proprietors in affluence, would not, if similarly managed, now repay the current expenses of their cultivation.

How are we to account for this reduction in prices? Not certainly from any falling-off in the demand, which is so far from being diminished that from year to year it has been advancing after a steady and important rate of progression. Nor yet can this fall in the money value of cotton be ascribed to the discovery of any new source of supply from countries where its cultivation is conducted at a diminished cost, since the principal importations are obtained from a country, the southern parts of the United States of America, where, although land is cheap, daily labour is uniformly dear, and the climate is assuredly not more favourable than is that of the West Indies to the perfection of the plant. The high prices of former times occasioned a great degree of carelessness on the part of the planters, who for that reason were not in a situation to meet the depression of prices occasioned by the increasing supplies raised in the United States. But to what cause are we to attribute the constant augmentation of growth in that country, in the face of a reduction in prices which has driven the West Indian cultivator from the market, unless it be to a greater degree of productiveness in the varieties cultivated, joined probably to greater agricultural knowledge? If there be any foundation for this opinion, the same course is obviously and equally open to the planters in our own Western Colonies, several of which are known to be admirably fitted by nature for this branch of husbandry.

It is allowed to be a difficult task, and one which has rarely been attended with success, to attempt the re-establishment in any country of pursuits that have once been laid aside as unprofitable; but in the present state of the West India Colonies the necessity for some effort of this nature seems to be urgent, and it is hoped that the circumstance here pointed out may show at least the possibility of attaining to better success than formerly, provided careful and judicious modes of cultivation be adopted.

APPENDIX (B.)

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

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CRIME and OFFENCES from 1st January to 31st December 1857.

Number.	Nature of Offence.	Law.
Convictions at the General Court.		
1	Murder - - - -	Common law.
1	Accessory after the fact to murder -	Offences against the Person Act, 1842.
2	Manslaughter - - - -	Common Law.
1	Maiming a horse - - - -	Malicious Injuries to Property Act 1842.
1	Larceny of gold ring and keys in house -	Larceny Act, 1842.
1	Stealing sugar in a curing house -	Ditto.
1	Stealing a cow - - - -	Ditto.
1	Rape - - - -	Common Law.
1	Wounding - - - -	Offences against the Person Act, 1842.
2	Non-attendance as jurors -	General Court Ordinance, 1856.
12		
Summary Convictions by Justices of the Peace.		
45	Petty assaults and batteries -	Assault and Battery Act, 1847.
11	Petty larcenies, under 2 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> value -	Larceny Act, 1842.
3	Malicious injuries to property, under 2 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> value.	Malicious Injuries to Property Act, 1842.
34	Indecent language - - - -	Good Order and Decorum Act, 1846.
6	Quarrelling and fighting - - - -	Ditto.
1	Throwing stones - - - -	Ditto.
1	Furious riding - - - -	Ditto.
1	Rogue and vagabond - - - -	Vagrant Act, 1839.
1	Practising obeah - - - -	Ditto.
2	Trespass - - - -	Trespass Act, 1849.
11	Neglecting to deliver per-centage of salt -	Salt Pond Ordinance, 1856.
1	Non-attendance to repair public roads -	Road Ordinance, 1855.
5	Breach of revenue law - - - -	Export Ordinance, 1857.
1	Rescue of a cow - - - -	Pound Ordinance, 1856.
1	Committed for contempt at coroner's inquest	Common Law.
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19	Riot - - - -	Common Law.

The cases of riot at Thatch Island are included in the present return, as the parties were convicted in 1857, although the offences were committed in 1856. The details have been already reported, and it is only necessary to observe that the transaction was serious only as being committed on a remote cay, and if unpunished might have proved of vicious example.

It may be fairly considered that convictions were not so numerous as in past years. Those at the general court, except the rape, were not of an atrocious character, and those by justices of the peace were generally for offences of a very trifling nature.

(Signed) CHARLES LLOYD
Stipendiary Justice.

15th March 1858.

APPENDIX (C.)

SCHOOL REPORT.

No. 1. St. George's School, Road Town.

Mistress.—Jane Pickering.

Salary.—\$ 24 per quarter, allowed by Lord Bishop from Christian Faith Society. House room allowed by public.

Schoolroom.—A few repairs needed.

Scholars.—42 (boys 20, girls 22). Daily average attendance, about 29.

State of School.—Not efficient. Causes thereof, several; chiefly the following; viz., inefficiency of mistress; irregularity in daily and hourly attendance of the children; difficulties in the way of carrying out proper discipline in school, by either mistress or officiating minister; the lax state of filial obedience; the negligence of parents, or those who stand in their stead; children being employed for portions of the day and week at home; facilities afforded by numerous other schools for receiving children who from dislike or other causes leave one school for another.

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Books.—A few are wanted. There are no means at the disposal of the minister for furnishing them. (\$ 3 58 was in 1856 placed at my disposal by the bishop and president; I do not know exactly from what source. The sum was expended in copy books, &c., which are supplied to the children at cost price, and in some cases gratis). The Christian Knowledge Society forwarded in February 1856 a grant of books, &c. to the value of 6*l.*, with the hope of calling forth other efforts in these islands by purchases from the society's catalogue.

No. 2. St. Philip's School at Kingstown.

Mistress.—Catherine Chalwill.

Salary.—\$ 23 per quarter, from same source as in No. 1.

Chapel Schoolroom.—In much need of repair.

Scholars.—40 (boys 18, girls 22). Regular attendants, 25.

State of School.—Not in as good order as desirable. Causes, with one or two exceptions and additions, similar to those adduced in School No. 1.

Books, &c.—A few required; no funds to supply them.

No. 3. Church School at Virgin Gorda.

Master.—William Gibbs Vanterpool.

Salary.—Same as in No. 2., and from same source.

Chapel Schoolroom.—In much need of repair.

Scholars.—42; daily attendance, 20–24. Many of the scholars have lately been absent from sickness. The daily attendance was larger previously to last report received from schoolmaster.

State of School.—Progressing favourably and satisfactorily when last visited, and by accounts since received.

Books, &c.—Schoolmaster is of opinion that a few rewards given to the most deserving scholars would be productive of beneficial effects on the whole school. No means at disposal of minister to purchase the above or any other books, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT MATSON,
Officiating Minister.

Tortola, February 3, 1858.

APPENDIX D.

REPORT of the Wesleyan Day and Sunday Schools in the British Virgin Islands.

TORTOLA.

In this island the Wesleyan methodists have five schools in useful operation.

The day school in Road Town numbers 40 boys, 14 girls; total 54. In this school there are 34 who are reading the Scriptures daily, and can write and spell correctly; 6 of them are making some proficiency in the knowledge of grammar and geography.

The day school at the West End numbers 19 boys and 21 girls; total 40. In this school there are twenty children who can accurately read the Word of God, and fifteen who are writing in copy books.

We have three Sunday schools in this Island; viz. one at Road Town, West End, East End. In connexion with these schools, there are 446 children and adults who are taught on the sabbath day by thirty-eight gratuitous teachers their duty to God, to their parents, and to their superiors. Many of them are giving pleasing evidence that they "fear God and keep his commandments." Our day school teachers are supported partly by children's fees, and the remainder is made up by the Wesleyan society, which at present is quite independent of the funds in England.

JOST VAN DYKES.

In this island the Wesleyan methodists have a day and Sunday school. In the former there are twenty-nine children; eight of them are writing in copy books, and eighteen of them can read very correctly.

The school held on the sabbath numbers fifty, the majority of which can read sufficiently correct as to be able to use the prayer book during the morning service on the Lord's day.

We hope shortly to have a school at Thatch Island, where there are a good number of children growing up in ignorance.

Tortola, March 9, 1858.

(Signed) SAMUEL SIMONS,
Wesleyan Missionary.

DOMINICA.

DOMINICA.

No. 23.

No. 23.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HAMILTON to the Right Honourable
Sir EDWARD BULWER LYTTON, Bart., M.P.

(No. 33.)

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
July 3, 1858.

(Received August 2, 1858.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit a Despatch from the Lieutenant Governor of
Dominica, forwarding the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1857.

2. The disturbances which occurred in relation to the Rum Duty Act have entirely
ceased, and the opposition to the Road Act is disappearing.

3. I trust that Lieutenant Governor Ord will not be disappointed in his expectation
of a sufficient revenue; but, while there remains a loan borrowed from the Government,
for the repayment of which adequate provision has not been made, the financial condition
of the island cannot be reported as satisfactory.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

KER B. HAMILTON.

The Right Hon. Sir E. Bulwer Lytton, Bart.,

&c.

&c.

&c.

Enclosure in No. 23.

(No. 29.)

Government House, Roseau,
March 26, 1858.

Encl. in No. 23.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the Blue Book for the year
1857 in triplicate. As I only assumed the Government of this colony on the 5th November
last, a small portion of the year to which the Blue Book actually relates has come under
my observation; I cannot therefore venture to do more than offer a few general remarks
upon its statements.

2. *Revenue and Expenditure.*—The general revenue of the colony exhibits an increase
of 1,600*l.* over that of the preceding year; but, from the amount received in 1856,
must be deducted upwards of 400*l.* due on account of house tax in 1855, which will
raise the actual receipts for the past year to 2,000*l.* over those of 1856. Of this amount
about 1,100*l.* is due to the temporary augmentation of the duties received under the
General Tax Act, which by Act of the Legislature, passed in September 1856, were
raised 50 per cent. until 31st December 1857. There has been a falling off of about
100*l.* in imports, and an increase of rather less in tonnage receipts, whilst the Rum and
Road Acts have furnished an addition to the revenue of upwards of 700*l.* On analysing
these amounts it appears that the actual receipts under the General Tax Act were
54 per cent more than those of 1856, showing an actual gain of 4 per cent. The
imports and tonnage nearly balance each other, and the receipts under the Rum Act
were augmented at the rate of 43 per cent. The Road Act also gave an increase
of about 8 per cent., but as this fund is appropriated solely to the purposes for which it
is collected, its variations cannot be considered as affecting the general revenue.

Although it would be unsafe in a colony whose prosperity depends so entirely upon
the value realized by its crops of sugar to speculate too freely what a year may bring
forth, I think that the prospects of revenue for the ensuing year are not unsatisfactory;
indeed, considering that the Rum Act is producing, without complaint or discontent, such
a valuable addition to the revenue, I am of opinion that we possess the means of relieving
ourselves at any time from financial difficulty, and, if it be thought expedient, of altering
the existing system of taxation by an increase of this duty, without fear of opposition
or difficulty of any sort.

The expenditure calls for no particular observation. There has been a saving of
nearly 500*l.* on the educational grant, from the Roman Catholic Bishop having declined
to avail himself of the provisions of the new Act, under which assistance can alone be
granted to his schools. On the roads there has been a large increase of expenditure,
arising from the funds collected during the previous year not having been laid out upon
them; and the expense of rebuilding Government House, and fitting up a public building

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for the occupation of the treasurer and other public officers, has largely increased the charge under the head "Miscellaneous." On the whole there has been a small balance of revenue over expenditure.

3. *Public Debt*.—No measures have been taken for the extinction of the large amount still due on account of the Hurricane Loan, 1834, but I am about to make proposals with reference to this debt which I trust may be favourably considered.

4. *Public Works*.—The expenditure under this head during the past year has been of unusual magnitude, amounting to about 2,000*l.* or nearly one-seventh of the whole revenue of the Colony. The greater part of this has been incurred on the new government house which is now in a forward state of completion, and will probably be ready for occupation about Midsummer; the fitting up of the old police station, a massive stone building the property of the Colony, as offices for the Treasurer and Auditor-General, has also been commenced; these two buildings will still require a considerable outlay before they are completed, but they are both services of which the Colony was much in need, and the construction of the latter will relieve it from a charge of 80*l.* per annum now paid for rent of offices.

5. *Legislation*.—Legislation has advanced at its ordinary slow pace during the past year. The Educational Bill has been replaced by another which is to have a five years' trial, and which as yet gives but little promise of success, the Roman Catholic Bishop having declared against it.

The General Tax Act has also been renewed for three years, with but few variations from the former Act.

These two measures were passed on the 30th September and 31st December respectively, and they are the sole results of the labours of the two legislative bodies for a whole year. A better illustration of the practical working of the system of legislation which exists in these colonies could not be produced if it were required.

6. *Gaols and Prisoners*.—The return which the Provost Marshal is in the habit of transmitting with the Blue Book, and which is a most valuable addition to the criminal statistics of the Island, shows that the actual number of convictions during the past year has been largely augmented. On analysing the character of these convictions, I find that a very large proportion of these are due to prosecutions under the Road Act of 1856, which was made the subject of great excitement and opposition at the commencement of the year, in the first three months of which 130 persons were committed for breaches of the Act, but as this excitement subsided these numbers have decreased considerably and do not now average 10 per month; if therefore, a deduction be made of this new class of offences which this Act has created, it will be found that the total number of commitments for offences punishable in former years is but 218, a smaller number than has been recorded in any year since 1851. In other respects the present year calendar presents, in the absence of serious offences, a favourable contrast with that of previous years; and, bearing in mind the summary character of the punishment which is awarded under the Road Act for any attempt at evasion of the tax, and also that the offence which forms so large a part of the charges upon which commitments take place is one that is nowhere viewed as a very serious character, I think the criminal condition of the people cannot be said to be otherwise than satisfactory.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. ST. GEORGE ORD,
Lieut-Governor.

Sir E. Bulwer Lytton, Bart. M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

MAURITIUS.

MAURITIUS.

No. 24.

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COPY of DESPATCH from Governor STEVENSON to the Right Honourable
Sir E. B. LYTTON, Bart.

(No. 187.)

Mauritius, August 26, 1858.

(Received October 19, 1858.)

SIR,

IN obedience to standing instructions, I beg leave to transmit herewith the Blue Book for 1857, together with the Annual Report on the general condition and prospects of the Colony.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM STEVENSON.

Encl. in No. .

Revenue and Expenditure.

Mauritius, August 20, 1858.

1. The real Revenue of 1857 (exclusive of deposits, advances, and loans, which are added to the statement of apparent Revenue,) was 438,000*l.*, being an increase of about 52,000*l.* over that of 1856, which was about 386,700*l.*

2. And the real Expenditure of 1857 was 371,812*l.*, being an excess of 62,025 over that of 1856, which was 309,787*l.*

3. The items which principally produce this increase of Revenue are:—Imports, 17,813*l.*; Harbour Dues, 1,358*l.*; Sale of Liquors, 10,629*l.*; Licences, 4,095*l.*; Registration Dues, 6,329*l.*; Fines and Fees, 3,894*l.*; and Reimbursements, 7,856*l.*; while the only item of decrease arose out of the sale in 1856 of a house which had been occupied by the late Chief Justice Wilson, and of some Government land near the harbour.

4. The chief items of excess of Expenditure are to be found under the heads of "Revenue Services," 1,630*l.*, for a large purchase of coals; "Administration of Justice," 1,985*l.*, in the prosecution of Margeot; "Charitable Allowances," 1,094*l.*, contribution to the Sailors' Home; "Conveyance of Mails," 4,794*l.*, arising out of the new Postal Contract, which had not commenced in 1856; "Works and Buildings," 23,592*l.*; "Civil Stores," 2,165*l.*, increase in the price of rice; "Immigration," 15,735*l.*, and "East India Company" 1,310*l.*

5. The financial condition of the country still presents a very flourishing appearance, the sum of 71,000*l.* of surplus Revenue having been remitted to the Agent in the course of last year, at the end of which there had been invested in the funds, to the credit of the Government, the sum of 219,397*l.*, and in the names of the Commissioners of Currency the sum of 96,640*l.*; and this independently of the money in the Treasury vaults and that under the control of the Commissioners of the Currency, which latter make more than ample provision for all our notes in circulation.

6. During that year there have also been loans effected for the Savings' Bank to the extent of 21,600*l.*, being more than double those that were effected during the previous year.

7. This latter institution, which is managed by a branch of the Treasury, yields a fair profit to the Revenues. It has existed since the year 1837, and during those 21 years the aggregate profit has been 20,612*l.*, and the aggregate loss 1,896*l.*, leaving a net profit of 18,715*l.* at the end of 1857, or an average net profit of about 872*l.* per annum.

8. If I succeed in satisfying the Secretary of State in the representations that I have already made and am about to make as to the Public Works and other items of permanent Expenditure strictly required for the Colony, and many of which ought long since to have been provided for a large part of our invested surplus Revenues will soon be brought into legitimate public use, for those Government undertakings which have become necessary in consequence of the great improvements in our agricultural and mercantile position, and by the alteration in some of our constitutional requirements.

9. I only fear that many of these necessary items of Expenditure have already been too long delayed, and that they now press heavily on the Government, at a time at which the cost of labour and materials has become very greatly augmented, thus giving to an unusual accumulation of important and necessary Public Works an appearance of profuse extravagance in the Government which would not have been attributed to it had those works been effected by degrees, and at the periods of time at which they were first demanded.

Public Works.—Roads and Bridges.

10. *Works.*—The progress of the Public Works, which have been begun, continued, or completed during the past year, has been as much advanced as could be expected, considering the scarcity of tradesmen and of skilled and manual labour of all sorts; but that deficiency has greatly retarded the

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completion of many works, and prevented the commencement of others; while the high price of labour and materials, and the uncertainty of contracts, have operated very detrimentally on the public undertakings.

11. The most important works which have been carried on during the year 1857 have been those in connexion with the quarantine establishments at Cannoniers' Point and Flat Island.

12. At Cannoniers' Point an extensive lazaret is almost complete. It comprises accommodation for about 600 immigrants, or two ships loads, as well as good hospitals, quarters for the staff, and other accessories. There are also quarters for Europeans in quarantine, and barracks outside for a military guard. This station is intended for small pox, or diseases other than cholera, and will, when complete, form a very efficient lazaret.

13. The cholera lazaret at Flat Island presented difficulties of landing which caused doubts as to the expediency of making it the permanent station; but no other having been available, it was decided that immediate steps should be taken to provide temporary accommodation for quarantine purposes, as well as a landing place, leaving experience to decide whether the expense of permanent buildings on the Island would be justified.

14. Temporary buildings were accordingly erected, and there has been constructed a landing jetty, which stretches out some distance into the sea, so as to be beyond the line of breakers (in all moderate weather). The footway is suspended from chain cables, which are supported by timber piers, offering very little surface to the wash of the sea. The work was much impeded by bad weather and other obstacles, but has now been brought to a close. It facilitates very much the disembarkation of men or stores. The temporary buildings are about to be replaced by the permanent ones, the estimate for which was voted by the Council in 1856.

15. The next work of importance is the construction of a wharf wall round the Iron Fanfaron, to prevent this valuable inner harbour from being encroached upon by the intentional or accidental deposit of mud or refuse matter on the shore.

16. The whole of the land which borders on this harbour is the property of the Crown. The greater part of it has been leased in lots of various sizes, one of the conditions of the leases having been, that the tenants should construct a substantial stone wall along the sea front of each lot. The work now in question is the completion by the Government of a similar wall in front of those portions of land which it is not the intention to lease. When this work shall have been finished all round the harbour, it is proposed to deepen the Iron Fanfaron, by means of dredging, to from 12 to 18 feet of water.

17. Considerable works have been in progress at the Lunatic Asylum at Grand River, with a view to rendering this institution more complete and efficient. And other suggested improvements will have the effect of making it far more so in many important respects.

18. A new prison establishment for the Savanne district has been in progress at Souillac. Nothing of the kind has existed there hitherto; and the prisoners are now partly lodged in a hired building.

19. At Flacq, a police establishment, with officers' quarters, has been completed.

20. This, with the new prisons at Souillac, are steps towards the general improvement of the public establishments in the districts, which are all far from being complete.

21. Under the head of Schools, the building a new school and master's residence has been commenced at the Champ de Lort; also a new schoolhouse, upon land recently purchased, for the purpose, at Terre Rouge.

22. A large building in Pucelles Street, Port Louis, has been purchased, and filled for a school. Each year something is done in this way, with the intention, not only of adding to the school accommodation, but of reducing the number of hired buildings now made use of for the purpose.

23. The old magazine for merchant's powder having been situated on ground much required for public improvements, and the position of the magazine so near the centre of the town having been considered dangerous, it was decided to build a new magazine at Fort George. The work was undertaken by the Royal Engineer Department, it having been found expedient that the magazine should be so constructed as to form an integral part of the defensive works now in course of construction at Fort George.

24. Harbour lights to point out the anchorage have been erected at Fort George and at Grand River, and are found exceedingly useful.

25. Semaphores, with the necessary buildings, have been established, to continue the line of telegraph to the lazaret at Flat Island.

26. *Bridges.*—Of bridges the most important has been that over River La Chaux at Mahébourg.

27. This bridge is on piles. It is upwards of 650 feet in length, and forms the principal outlet to a large tract of country north of Mahébourg. It is an improvement of immense value to that part of the Island.

28. The formation of the approaches to the bridge over the Tamarin River, a work of considerable labour, has been completed.

29. *Roads.*—During the year 1857 an aggregate length of $22\frac{1}{4}$ miles of new road has been formed; 36 miles of road have been re-metalled and widened or otherwise improved, and 132 miles have been kept in repair. This work was done chiefly by hired labourers, the average number employed having been 584. In a few instances, where it was practicable, contracts were taken for the formation of new roads.

30. Considerable expense has been incurred in pulling down and rebuilding new structures, which have been injured by unforeseen causes, and in remedying defects which have resulted from too much

economy in the plans and estimates. Among others, two bridges, from which great public advantage was expected, one at Plaines Wilhems and one at Moka, have given way, partly, as it is said, in consequence of injury to the foundation, as well as of the well-meant but undue parsimony which prompted the adoption of inferior plans of building, and partly in consequence of the indifferent material supplied by the contractors in England, and which remained undiscovered until the bridge was completed and tried.

31. In other cases, likewise, where contracts have been based upon estimates intended to economize Public Works, the very opposite effect has unfortunately resulted, and additions which have been found indispensable have been made at advanced stages of the work at greater expense than would have been incurred had a more liberal expenditure and estimate been sanctioned in the first instance; and works now under progress, under estimates of previous years, are in some cases found to be inadequate to the wants which they were designed to supply, and must during the present year be extended at greater expense, to supply the original deficiency.

32. No doubt, the greatest difficulty is experienced in this department in the preparation and realization of estimates, in consequence of the fluctuating and ever-varying prices of labour and materials, and the difficulty of keeping skilled labourers steady to their engagements; besides which, contractors appear to be very little influenced in their tenders for Public Works by any clear principle which should regulate the value of their services. An incredibly broad margin must, therefore, always be left for casualties such as these in all engagements for Public Works, and the practice of that public economy which is prompted in all Colonial Works is rendered exceedingly difficult in such circumstances.

33. Notwithstanding all that has been recently accomplished in the Department of Public Works, much is still to be done, great part of which should have been embraced in the service of former years, and the cost of which must now be sustained by past accumulated balances, augmented as it will be by the increased price of materials and labour.

34. The business of the several Public Departments has within the last ten or twelve years so increased as to have rendered it necessary to improve their accommodation, and in some instances to build new offices for those public servants for whom hired houses have hitherto been used, but who, in consequence of the largely augmented rents demanded, or of notices received to quit, in order to make room for other tenants, will be obliged to leave the premises which they now occupy.

35. The Post Office especially is an institution which produces much public anxiety in this respect, for in consequence of the enormous increase in postal correspondence within the last few years, not only are the clerks of that establishment fewer than ought to be there employed, but the building in which this public service is conducted is wholly unfit for its use in its increased importance. A new building, therefore, and a costly one it will be, must of necessity be erected, the only difficulty, in the present scarcity and high value of sites, having been to determine where it should be built; but this point has lately been settled.

36. Under recent recommendations from the Admiralty, a great and expensive undertaking for the improvement of the harbour will likewise soon be brought under consideration, which, with the improvement already described, will produce much additional harbour accommodation and protection.

37. But another maritime town and harbour would be of great value, not only for the purposes of trade and shipping, but for the relief of this town of part of its redundant population; and I hope that Mahébourg may soon become an object of improvement for all these objects.

38. And as great perplexity exists in most of the districts with regard to public accommodation for courts, prisons, asylums, police, schools, and other necessary institutions, which are at present very inconveniently scattered, and of a very inferior description, it cannot be long before Public Works must be undertaken for the purpose of centralizing in district towns all these necessary establishments.

Legislation.

39. The legislation of the year 1857 was unusually active and important. It embraced schemes for compulsory education throughout the Island; for facilitating the engagement of Indian immigrants; for introduction of labourers from places beyond the territory of the East India Company; a revision of the laws concerning quarantine; and the curatorship of vacant estates; with other Ordinances of minor but still considerable importance.

40. I proceed to notice briefly the leading Ordinances of the year.

41. (1.) Ordinance, No. 21, for making compulsory the education of children in the Colony.

42. The measures heretofore taken for educating youth in Mauritius had made comparatively little progress, owing partly to the apathy of both Creoles and Indians on the subject, but chiefly to its being more profitable to send young persons to work than to school. It was accordingly resolved to try the effect of making education compulsory.

43. The education thus forced upon the community is purely secular. It includes morality, order, and cleanliness, reading, writing, and arithmetic, and such industrial training as the Governor may appoint. The girls will also be taught needlework and domestic economy.

44. Religious instructors of any denomination will be admitted during limited portions of the time for compulsory attendance, but no children are allowed to attend such religious instruction against the wish of their parents or guardians.

45. It is made an offence, punishable by fine and imprisonment, in any person to withhold from school or deprive from education children between certain ages; and provision is made for the inspection of districts and schools to be erected under the law, and for preventing its evasion.

46. The Ordinance contains little more than an outline of the scheme, the details of which have yet to be completed by Regulations, which the Governor has power to pass in Executive Council. Nor

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can the law come into operation until more schools have been erected, and inspectors have been appointed for the educational districts.

47. The success of the scheme will depend entirely upon the efficacy of those measures; but the practical operation and enforcement of this law will be attended with many difficulties.

48. (II.) Ordinance No. 22 is likely to produce considerable addition to the supply of labour from India. It enables any employer to engage newly arrived immigrants to whatever number he chooses, upon repaying to the Government the expense of introducing those in excess of the number to which he is entitled by Regulation.

49. (III.) Ordinance No. 23 was designed to supply still further a deficiency in the labour market, by authorizing the introduction of immigrants from territories not under the government of the East India Company.

50. Previously to the passing of this law, the introduction of such immigrants had been rather discouraged, as effectual means did not exist for protecting them on their arrival in the colony, while employers were deterred from introducing them on account of the inability to engage them for more than one year.

51. By the new law three years' engagements are legalized, wherever the immigrant has been introduced in conformity with its Regulations, which embrace the following topics:—

1. Licence from the Governor or a Government Agent to introduce from a particular place.
2. Security against any immigrant being shipped against his will.
3. Proper treatment on board ship.
4. The surveillance of the Protector of Immigrants, on the labourers being brought to Mauritius.
5. Freedom to engage with any person they choose, provided that the master shall have made arrangements for their passage money and other expenses.

52. In order to prevent sums from being charged as passage money which really included the purchase price of the labourer, provision is made for fixing by arbitration the expense of introduction.

53. The immigrants, after being landed and engaged, become subject to the same laws as Indian immigrants, regarding unlicensed absences from work, on the one hand, and the recovery of wages and prevention of cruel treatment, on the other; while provision is also made for registering the marriages and parentage of all those who are introduced under the law.

54. From this Ordinance, and the Regulations in course of being framed to carry it out, and which are to be approved by the Secretary of State before they are put in force, considerable benefit is anticipated in the labour market; and it is expected that the Government will authorize several new sources to be opened for the introduction of labour under a scheme which provides for them the same freedom of choice and security against ill treatment, with the same social advantages, as the Indian Government has anxiously secured for Indian immigrants.

55. (IV.) Ordinance No. 26. The immigration from India having been placed under Regulations, in which the Colonial Government and the East India Company concurred, it was deemed proper to prevent private persons from introducing immigrants from territories under the government of the Company upon private speculation beyond the Government control, as experience had shown that the promoters of all such private schemes sacrificed the interest of the Indians to their own pecuniary advantage.

56. Repeated instances of cruelty and injustice to immigrants so introduced had pressed themselves on the attention of both the Home and Colonial Governments, while the East India Company were still more anxious to put a stop to them.

57. Under the law, severe penalties are enacted in every case where such immigrants are introduced in any way except under the system agreed to by the Indian and Colonial Governments.

58. The law appears to have attained its object, as no case has yet occurred to put in force its penal enactments.

59. (V.) Ordinance No. 3, to amend the laws concerning quarantine.

60. The repeated evasions of the quarantine laws, and their inadequacy to secure their object, induced the late Governor to submit them to revision by a committee consisting of the Procureur General, the Chief Medical Officer, the Harbour Master, and the Pratique Surgeon. The Ordinance No. 3, of 1857, resulted from their joint labours.

61. Its provisions are more especially applicable to the present quarantine stations of Flat Island and Cannonier's Point, and to temporary or provisional quarantine at the roadstead of Port Louis. In anticipation, however, of additional stations being afterwards required, it empowers the Governor in Executive Council to appoint these, and to extend to them the whole Ordinance or any part of it.

62. The Ordinance provides severe penalties against communicating with vessels before pratique, and against communicating with or approaching the quarantine stations and vessels under quarantine; it also enacts that persons attempting to escape from quarantine may be fired upon, and shall be liable to fine and imprisonment.

63. Precise rules are provided as to communication by pilots and health officers with vessels; as to signals and guard boats; and as to the place, manner, and period of quarantine in each case of infectious disease.

64. Power is, moreover, conferred upon the Governor in Executive Council to frame Regulations for carrying out the purpose of the law, and to provide limited penalties for their infraction.

65. Shortly after this law was passed, it was found not to have anticipated two difficulties; namely, the inability of the local courts of Mauritius to punish communication with vessels beyond the local jurisdiction; and, secondly, the inability to prosecute with sufficient promptitude offences, which, from the amount of penalty attached to them, could only be tried by the Court of Assize.

66. In these circumstances the Council passed the Ordinance No. 27, of 1857.

67. By this law penalties are imposed on any person who, before any vessel coming to Mauritius shall have received a pratique, shall land upon any part of the Colony, or enter any river or creek, after

having approached or communicated with such vessel, there being no distinction as to whether such communication shall have occurred at a part of the sea within or beyond the jurisdiction of the Colony.

68. This Ordinance also enables the Public Prosecutor, by restricting the penalty for any contravention of the Quarantine Law, to bring the case before the District Magistrate, instead of leaving it to be tried at the Quarterly Assizes; and it confers on the Magistrate of Port Louis jurisdiction in quarantine cases concurrently with the Magistrate of the district in which the contravention took place. By this means persons contravening will not escape on account of doubt as to the jurisdiction within which they come.

69. Since these laws were passed they have been repeatedly put in force with success to punish contraventions. It remains to be seen whether they will attain the more important object of preventing them.

70. The penalties are, I think, too heavy in many cases, and as they have given rise to several special applications for relief, I propose soon to suggest amendments in this respect.

71. Several breaches of the law have arisen from the scarcity of labour in the Colony, since, upon a vessel arriving with immigrants, the agents of the planters run the risk of detection and punishment for a breach of Quarantine Laws rather than lose the advantage of the first word with the Coolies. It has even once occurred that when immigrants were in quarantine an emissary has been sent to communicate with them, to be seized and placed in quarantine, that he might do so more effectually. The emissary was imprisoned for the offence, but there was not sufficient legal proof to convict the real offender.

72. Although some of the penalties are no doubt too severe, such contraventions as these rather deserve a corresponding increase in the severity of the punishment imposed; but the increased supply of labourers will furnish less temptation to brave the consequences of communicating unlawfully with vessels bringing immigrants.

73. (VI.) Ordinance No. 13, for amending the law on the Curatorship of Vacant Estates.

74. The costliness and inefficiency of the administration of intestate estates, under the Ordinance No. 9, of 1838, had been the subject of repeated correspondence between the Secretary of State and the late Governor. The Curator of these estates then acted as the head of his own department, employing, whenever he thought fit, an attorney, counsel, and notary of his own selection, and acting almost entirely without check or control as to the mode of his administration. The funds of the estates in his hands, while bearing costs and commissions, were entirely unremunerative, as they lay in the Treasury without bearing interest.

75. To remedy these evils, the new law places the Curator under the immediate personal superintendence and direction of the Colonial Treasurer, while in matters of law the office is under the guidance of the Procureur General. This kind of supervision was adopted on account of the interest which the Crown, as "ultimus hæres," has in unclaimed estates, and from its being the least objectionable surveillance that could be obtained.

76. In order that the estates may be no longer unproductive, the Ordinance places them on the same footing as deposits in the Savings' Bank, the Treasury lending the funds on security, and allowing five per cent. upon them.

77. The difference between that amount and the interest received will, it is expected, defray the cost of administration.

78. The Ordinance also simplifies and cheapens the proceedings for putting the Curator in possession, and for realizing the estates administered.

79. The law has not yet, however, been put into operation, as there have been some unforeseen difficulties still to be overcome.

80. Besides the laws thus mentioned in detail, there are some of minor importance, which deserve to be shortly noticed.

81. (VII.) Ordinance No. 2 introduces modified punishments in lieu of the long imprisonments which had been substituted for transportation, and it allows the Court of Assizes to relax the severity of punishment, by imprisonment where the penal code prescribes their minimum.

82. (VIII.) Ordinance No. 9, "for amending the law as to the preparation of the Jury lists," enables persons who do not sufficiently understand the English language to have their names struck out of the Jury list by the officer by whom it shall be prepared, without the inconvenience and delay of having to appear and be examined as to their inability to serve.

83. (IX.) Ordinance No. 11 reduces from ten to six per cent. the Customs Duties upon certain manufactured articles of constant consumption in the Colony. It had been loudly called for by the public.

84. (X.) Ordinance No. 12 was proposed to the Council in consequence of suggestions from the Secretary of State. It provides that costs shall be given in civil causes by and against the Crown in the same manner as in causes between subject and subject. It re-introduced the just rule of the Civil Code, from which there had been repeated but not well-defined deviations by the Court. Its provisions are similar to those of 18 & 19 Victoria, Chapter 90, which, however, relates only to cases instituted against the Crown.

85. (XI.) Ordinance No. 18 was passed to remedy the inconvenience which had repeatedly arisen from the temporary suspension of business upon the death, illness, or absence of Magistrates in rural districts.

86. In those districts in which there are separate District and Stipendiary Magistrates, the Ordinance clothes the one with the functions of the other until his return or recovery, or until a successor be appointed to him.

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87. It also enables District Clerks, in cases of urgency, to grant warrants for arrest and search. By this means the officers of justice will not be baffled in the detection of crime, owing to the temporary absence of the District Magistrate.

88. (XII.) Ordinance No. 20, "to make provision for regulating the temporalities belonging to the United Church of England and Ireland."

89. Her Majesty's confirmation having been withheld from Ordinance No. 22, of 1856, which had been passed for the same purpose, the Ordinance No. 20 was proposed in place of it, under directions of the Secretary of State.

90. It provides that land set apart for building churches and churchyards attached to the Church of England should be vested in the Bishop of Mauritius for the time being and his successors; or, if the church shall have been erected at the sole expense of private persons, it may be vested either in that manner or in trustees named by the founders.

91. The Ordinance provides that those trustees be members of the Church of England, and regulates the mode in which they shall be appointed and removed. It also determines their mode of meeting and voting; and it contains detailed rules as to burying ground, pew rents, and other ecclesiastical matters.

Civil Establishment.

92. Notwithstanding the improvements which appear to have been made in recent years in the Civil Establishments of the colony, a great deal still remains to be done before they can attain anything like perfection.

93. The public service has so greatly increased in all departments, that it has been difficult to keep pace with the wants of the Colony; and I found on my arrival here, not only that the public buildings were far too small for the functionaries they were intended to contain, but that the public duties of those functionaries were far heavier than they could conveniently accomplish.

94. Moreover, the economy of past years,—very properly commencing at a time when financial difficulties had overtaken the country, but continuing without the same reason, although with other well intended objects, when prosperity shone upon the colonists,—had introduced a practice of adding to the duties of certain public officers other duties which were wholly foreign to their primary employments; the consequence of which was, that whenever fault was found for any apparent or real neglect of public duty, or for the imperfection of its performance, the reason always promptly given was, that the pressure of these heterogeneous occupations interfered with each other, and prevented the perfect performance of them all; and this, upon inquiry, proved in many instances to be the fact.

95. The satisfactory position, therefore, in which they may have been described to be last year, was necessarily comparative with reference to their condition in previous years, and no doubt many improvements had been made, which, judging from the records of the past, must have placed these public institutions in a position of comparative advancement.

96. But most of them are still very imperfect; and the representations which I have lately had occasion to make on the subject, not only of the public buildings in which the offices are conducted, but with reference also to the number of clerks and the augmentations of their salaries, will, I hope, produce many improvements in the Civil Establishment.

97. As far, also, as I have hitherto been able to judge of many of our public offices, there are several of them which require remodelling in their system; but although many amendments have lately been effected in this respect, it will be necessary to become more familiar with past and present arrangements before improvements to any great extent can be suggested for the future.

98. The accomplishment, too, of this desideratum, so much depends upon the energy and experience of the heads of departments, and upon their own well-concerted arrangements, that great hesitation must be shown in the suggestion of decided changes the success of which must wholly depend on the power and skill of those who have the immediate duty of carrying them into execution.

99. This, however, is very certain, that in an important and wealthy Crown Colony like Mauritius, where there are, so to speak, no popular institutions, and where the whole establishment of the country rests with the Government alone, the machinery of all the Public Departments should be as complete as they can be, the staff of each should be fully equal to its duties, and the head of each department, particularly of each superior one, should be thoroughly master of his work. I am not prepared to say that all these desiderata are nearly yet attained, or are even capable of full attainment, in this Colony.

Population.

100. The Census of 1851 divided the population under three heads:—the Indian, the ex-apprentice, and the general.

The aggregate was then stated at 189,327. It may now be estimated at nearly 240,000.

101. The Indian was enumerated at 86,404. It amounted to 142,534 at the end of 1857.

102. The Ex-apprentice with their families was stated at 48,366. It is now supposed to be little more than 40,600.

103. And the general population was estimated at 54,557. It is now supposed to be nearly 55,800.

104. Owing to the length of time which has elapsed since the last Census was taken, it has not been found possible to collect information relative to the proportion which the different classes of our population bear to each other, the relative numbers of the sexes, and the comparative ratio in which

the inhabitants of the different districts have increased in number, with that accuracy which can alone render information upon this, and many other points of interest connected with the subject of population, of any real practical importance. MAURITIUS.

105. The only subject which the statistics at present available can serve to elucidate, is the proportion which the Indian population, from which our agricultural labourers are almost exclusively drawn, bears to the general mass.

106. The information which the statistical tables present upon this point would at first sight lead to the conclusion that the supply of labour, if not sufficient to meet the demands of the planters, is at any rate more in proportion to the demand than it was in 1851.

107. The number of the Indian population has each year steadily increased, while that of the general population has on the whole diminished, in consequence of the ravages twice made by epidemic disease, which the general excess of births over deaths has not sufficed to counterbalance.

108. The result is that the proportion which the Indian population bears to the whole population has increased in the interval from 43.1 to 59.7 per cent.

109. It appears, however, from returns which the planters have been called upon to produce, that whereas out of the 64,282 male Indians in the Island in 1851, 41,921, or 65.2 per cent., were employed on sugar estates, out of the 107,072 male Indians in the Island at the end of 1857, only 46,997, or 43.8 per cent., were so employed.

110. The number of male labourers, other than Indians, occupied on the plantations, is computed at 1,820. Whereas, therefore, the total number of male labourers employed on the sugar estates in 1851 amounted to 35.1 per cent. of the whole population, at the end of 1857 it amounted only to 20.4 per cent. In 1851 it was 44,611; in 1857, 48,817.

111. The number of the female in proportion to the male Indian population was less, however, in 1851 than in 1857, the proportion of females being in the former year 17.5, and in the latter 24.8 of the whole Indian population.

112. As a general rule, women do no work on the plantations.

113. The area of land under cane cultivation has in the meantime about doubled. In the Blue Book for 1851 it was calculated at 39,300 acres; by the statistical returns of this year it is computed, according to the lowest calculation, at 75,000 acres; according to another, at more than 80,000; while the uncultivated land susceptible of cultivation is calculated at 126,346 acres.

114. These results fully account for the large sums which are paid by the planters for engaging the services of arriving immigrants. Such sums are not the measure of the planter's wealth, but of his necessities. The question with him is, whether he is to abandon the crop upon which his capital has been spent, or pay a price for labour which will leave him little, if any, profit upon that crop. It is the middleman alone who benefits by the competition. The planter runs the risk of ruin. The labourer's wages are but slightly affected.

115. The inference that a larger supply of field labour is required cannot be questioned; and, making full allowance for the large demand which commerce makes upon the labour market, it would appear that a large number of the Indian population are not serving the purpose for which they were introduced.

116. Whether it is desirable that they should be allowed to remain in the colony without re-engagement, after completion of their industrial residence, when the chief objection to introducing a supply of field labour equal to the demand is a fear of scarcity in provisions, the most necessary of which are derived exclusively from other countries, would appear to depend mainly upon what their usual occupations are, and what may be the demand for the peculiar kind of labour in which they are engaged. But these are facts which, so far as concerns the present population, can only be ascertained when a new Census is taken, and by analogy only with the occupations of the present population can those of the future be conjectured.

Ecclesiastical.

117. No changes worthy of any notice have taken place in the establishment of last year, as contrasted with that of 1856.

118. The numbers of clergy and of priests are much the same as they were in 1856; augmentations of the numbers of Roman Catholic priests were sanctioned, although the full numbers were not obtained during the past year.

119. The zeal of both the churches and their ministers appears to be unabated.

Education.

120. The returns from the Acting Rector of the Royal College, and the Superintendent of Government Schools, will disclose the state of public education in the Colony during the past year.

121. The Ordinance which was passed in 1857, founded on the recommendation of the Committee of Education, and the improvements contemplated by both, were not brought into operation, under the advice of the Committee, that they should be for a time suspended, nor, indeed, in consequence of the absence of the Rector, and of the necessity for instituting some important changes which required great caution and consideration, was the Royal College in a position to be improved during any portion of last year.

122. The condition, therefore, of the Royal College at the close of 1857 must have been much the same as it was at the close of 1856; but it is expected that after the arrival of the newly appointed Rector, and the adoption of the contemplated improvements which he will be the means of carrying out,

MAURITIUS. the educational position and discipline of that institution will derive all the advantages which have been needed for some time past.

123. The Superintendent of the Government Schools reports that about 2,761 children received education last year in the Government schools of Port Louis and the rural districts. The aggregates are nearly the same as in the preceding year; but in the town schools there is a decrease in the attendance of 105, while in the country schools there was an increase of 97. The greatest decrease was in the Creole schools, the diminution having been 61; and next to them the Indian schools fell off, by a diminished number of 26. The reasons are conjectured by the Superintendent, but it is difficult to attribute them to their true causes.

124. Great difficulties are still experienced in the prosecution of the educational scheme in this Colony, and it is to be feared that those difficulties will not easily be surmounted, as long as the principal causes exist.

125. One chief cause is in the *dialect* spoken by the children, which is the most corrupt description of Creole French, in which dialect alone their ordinary conversation is conducted, and beyond which they are for the most part ignorant of any means of oral communication.

126. This renders it necessary in many of the schools to impart instruction in French, which is the parent of their own dialect, for to the English language the greater number of these children are entire strangers.

127. Some few of the schools, however, are exceptions, for in them English as well as French is used as the medium of instruction. But when the language in which they are taught is not that which they are accustomed to hear spoken or read beyond the walls of their school, it is hopeless to make much impression of a durable character, either on the subject or the medium of instruction, and the greater part of the advantages of education is therefore lost.

128. Another difficulty is found in the difference of *creed*, which gives rise to jealousy and misapprehension, lest any particle of an adverse creed should be imparted in any of the Government schools; so that it is even difficult to introduce the most elementary or the most universal moral precepts, without incurring the danger of unexpected opposition from those who entertain lurking suspicions upon these points.

129. A third impediment is found in the incompetency of *teachers*, few of whom can be expected to possess much skill in their vocation for the very inadequate remuneration they receive; and, indeed, when in this country any one who possesses the least talent and industry can bring his talents to a profitable market in any other sphere of occupation, it rather proves the possession of a very unmarketable mediocrity of talent when teachers are found to remain permanently employed in a distasteful and underpaid service.

130. The buildings, too, in which these Government schools are conducted, are of a very inferior description, and some of them so confined and ill-ventilated as not only to possess no attraction by way of accommodation or comfort, but to make the work of instruction, both for the teacher and the pupil, most injurious to health.

131. One great mistake, I think, arises from waste of educational machinery, and the consequent loss of efficiency, arising from a plurality of inferior schools throughout the town and the districts, instead of concentrating it in the town in two large schools, and in one or two only in each district.

132. If all those inferior schools were united into two, of a large and important character, placed in convenient parts of the town, with an infant and Indian school attached to each, it would not be difficult to procure from the best training establishments superior masters and teachers for those large schools, who, with the assistance of two or three of the best of the present teachers, and by the institution of a system of pupil-teaching, would soon raise the education in those schools to one of a superior character, and, by means of the system there established, and the aid of the pupil-teachers (when sufficiently advanced for that purpose), the same improved plan of education might soon be spread throughout the district, and a clear and uniform scheme be generally adopted, instead of the present varied methods which are found to prevail in all the different schools, and which present no intelligible system whatever.

133. It is true that the town of Port Louis covers a large surface, and the children would have a greater distance to walk to the two central schools than they have at present to the inferior schools in their more immediate neighbourhood; but if the education they received were better, and the industrial pursuits they were taught were rendered more attractive, the additional distance would scarcely be regarded.

134. It is true that this plan would involve the expense of building these larger schools, but in reduction of that expense there would be the price produced by the sales of the existing schools, as well as the saving in rent of those which are now tenanted by Government.

135. In the country districts there is the same waste of power, and the difficulty of centralisation is greater; but it is now becoming an object of importance to centralise in district towns the principal portion of the population not employed in agriculture upon the estates. It may, therefore, soon become practicable to establish these improved model schools even in the district villages.

136. And as there would then remain the difficulty of dealing with the rural population on the estates, it may become a question whether it will not be expedient for Government to give up the system of State tuition there, and leave that to be undertaken by private individuals, holding out only the prospect of Government assistance where schools are established in any of those scattered populations in which any phase of the Christian Religion may be taught; and all that would be necessary, in such cases, would be, that the half-yearly or periodical visit and report from the Superintendent or other Government officer should determine the merit of the school, and the amount of assistance to be bestowed.

137. The combination of many of the small salaries now given to inferior teachers would furnish more liberal ones for teachers and industrial masters in these larger Government schools, while the

inferior ones, as well as all others deserving a favourable report, might be made more dependant on MAURITIUS, private enterprise, sustained to some extent by Government contributions, and subject to occasional but not exclusive Government superintendence.

Imports and Exports.

138. The Imports of 1857, as compared with those of 1856, show a large increase.

139. The Total Value of Imports in 1856 was 2,154,406*l.*, while that of 1857 was 2,391,106*l.*; and, after deducting the value of specie in those two years, the remaining value of goods imported in 1856 was 1,427,446*l.*, while that of 1857 was 1,765,200*l.*, leaving an increase in favour of the latter year of 337,754*l.*

140. The Exports of 1857, as compared with those of 1856, likewise show a large increase in Value.

141. The Total Value of Exports in 1856 was 1,804,123*l.*, while that of 1857 was 2,303,786*l.*, and after deducting the value of specie the total value of goods exported in the two years was 1,796,523*l.* in 1856, and 2,176,824*l.* in 1857, giving an increase in favour of the latter year of 380,300*l.*

142. The principal cause of this difference is, that in 1857 the *value* of the sugar exported was 350,856*l.*, although the *quantity* exported in that year was less than that of 1856 by upwards of 3,000,000 lbs.

143. The following Summary, furnished by the Collector of the Customs, will give these particulars more in detail.

A.

The Imports in 1857, as compared with those of 1856, show a large increase.

		1856.			1857.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Total Value of Imports	- -	2,154,406	9	4	2,391,106	7	10
Deduct Value of Specie	- -	726,960	6	8	625,906	3	4
Total Value of Goods imported	-	1,427,446	2	8	1,765,200	4	6
Increase	- -	-	-	-	337,754	1	10

which chiefly arises from increased Importations of the under-mentioned articles :—

	Value in 1856.	Value in 1857.	Increase.
	£	£	£
Animals, viz.: Cows and Oxen - -	37,266	42,819	5,553
„ Horses - -	10,139	18,210	8,071
„ Mules - -	39,553	43,040	3,487
Apparel - -	11,191	19,583	8,392
Beer and Ale of all Sorts - -	14,639	25,594	10,955
Cabinet and Upholstery Wares - -	3,403	7,233	3,830
Carriages - -	5,981	10,345	4,364
Coals - -	6,472	15,216	8,744
Coffee - -	7,477	15,773	8,296
Copper Sheets and Nails - -	50,526	63,089	12,563
Corn, &c.: Grain - -	67,384	79,656	12,272
„ Wheat - -	47,204	65,913	18,709
„ Flour - -	9,923	13,316	3,393
Cotton Manufactures, Plain - -	47,534	77,199	29,665
„ Coloured - -	60,537	101,348	40,811
„ Hosiery - -	2,947	7,292	4,345
Earthen and China Ware - -	2,574	6,861	4,287
Fish, Dried or Salted - -	20,556	24,693	4,137
Haberdashery - -	31,393	44,284	12,891
Hardwares and Cutlery - -	21,784	38,920	17,136
Iron, Bar - -	8,269	12,255	3,986
„ Cast - -	3,153	12,923	9,770
Iron Wrought Nails - -	4,609	7,699	3,090
Jewellery - -	2,677	12,508	9,831
Leather Boots and Shoes - -	14,955	27,881	12,926
Machinery - -	34,976	76,080	41,104
Painters' and Dyers' Colours - -	7,398	13,197	5,799
Soap - -	12,871	17,915	5,044
Spirits: Brandy - -	5,377	15,552	10,175
Wine - -	65,537	72,180	6,643

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B.

The Exports in 1857, as compared with those of 1856, show a large increase in Value.

	1856.			1857.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Total Value of Exports	-	-	1,804,123	2,303,786	9	0
Deduct Value of Specie	-	-	7,600	126,962	0	0
Total Value of Goods exported	-	-	1,796,523	2,176,824	9	0
Increase	-	-	-	380,301	7	0

the principal cause of which is explained as follows:—

	Lbs.			Value £		
Sugar exported in 1857	-	-	231,987,012	2,038,682	9	3
Sugar exported in 1856	-	-	235,605,245	1,687,826	3	6
Difference	-	-	-	350,856	5	9

notwithstanding that the quantity of Sugar exported in 1857 was 3,618,233 lbs. less than the quantity exported in 1856.

Shipping.

144. The Vessels entered inwards in 1857 were 728, with a tonnage of 271,994, being an increase over those of the previous year of 50 Vessels, containing 31,154 tons.

145. The Vessels cleared outwards in 1857 were 705, containing 261,356 tons, being an increase of 63 Vessels of 29,014 tons over those of 1856.

146. Of these vessels about two thirds are British, nearly one third French, and the rest of various other nations.

147. The following summary, furnished by the Collector of Customs, will give these particulars more in detail.

148. And the very elaborate Statistical Tables appended to the "Returns" will furnish all the minute information which the recent instructions require.

A.

VESSELS ENTERED INWARDS.

	WITH CARGOES.			IN BALLAST.			TOTAL.		
	Vessels.	Tons.		Vessels.	Tons.		Vessels.	Tons.	
1857	648	241,641		80	30,353		728	271,994	
1856	602	214,794		76	26,046		678	240,840	
Increase in 1857	46	26,847		4	4,307		50	31,154	

The following STATEMENT shows the principal COUNTRIES from which an INCREASED or DECREASED AMOUNT OF TONNAGE arrived in 1857, as compared with the TONNAGE of Vessels entered Inwards in 1856.

COUNTRIES whence arrived.	Vessels with Cargoes.				Vessels in Ballast.				TOTAL.			
	1856.	1857.	In-crease.	De-crease.	1856.	1857.	In-crease.	De-crease.	1856.	1857.	In-crease.	De-crease.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
United Kingdom	22,993	39,841	16,848	—	—	476	476	—	22,993	40,317	17,324	—
Australasia	14,138	14,240	102	—	2,184	2,077	—	107	16,322	16,317	—	5
Cape of Good Hope	10,004	16,641	6,637	—	—	3,585	3,585	—	10,004	20,226	10,222	—
British Continental India	89,269	90,483	1,214	—	3,663	6,031	2,368	—	92,932	96,514	3,582	—
Other British Possessions	8,289	5,733	—	2,556	4,212	2,261	—	1,951	12,501	7,994	—	4,507
France	22,028	28,200	6,172	—	1,700	1,918	218	—	23,728	30,118	6,390	—
Madagascar	13,311	15,467	2,156	—	19	—	—	19	13,330	15,467	2,137	—
Reunion Island	6,073	7,316	1,238	—	4,545	5,256	711	—	10,623	12,572	1,949	—
States of the Rio de la Plata	10,793	4,978	—	5,815	2,647	3,621	974	—	13,440	8,599	—	4,841
Other Foreign Countries	17,891	18,742	851	—	7,076	5,128	—	1,948	24,967	23,870	—	1,097
Total	214,794	241,641	35,218	8,371	26,046	30,353	8,332	4,025	240,840	271,994	41,604	10,450
Deduct Decrease	-	-	8,371	-	-	-	4,025	-	-	-	10,450	-
Net Increase	-	-	26,847	-	-	-	4,307	-	-	-	31,154	-

B. MAURITIUS.

VESSELS CLEARED OUTWARDS.

		WITH CARGOES.		IN BALLAST.		TOTAL.	
		Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1857	- -	557	199,005	148	62,351	705	261,356
1856	- -	501	175,623	141	56,689	642	232,342
Increase in 1857	-	56	23,352	7	5,662	63	29,014

The following STATEMENT shows the principal COUNTRIES for which an INCREASED or DECREASED AMOUNT OF TONNAGE was cleared in 1857, as compared with the TONNAGE of Vessels cleared Outwards in 1856.

COUNTRIES to which departed.	Vessels with Cargoes.				Vessels in Ballast.				TOTAL.			
	1856.	1857.	In-crease.	De-crease.	1856.	1857.	In-crease.	De-crease.	1856.	1857.	In-crease.	De-crease.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
United Kingdom	57,865	61,304	3,439	—	—	—	—	—	57,865	61,304	3,439	—
Australasia	17,123	18,255	1,132	—	—	—	—	—	17,123	18,255	1,132	—
Cape of Good Hope	4,628	6,450	1,822	—	—	746	746	—	4,628	7,196	2,568	—
Ceylon	1,628	7,672	6,044	—	3,627	7,014	3,387	—	5,255	14,686	9,431	—
British Continental India	31,723	30,988	—	735	42,295	39,012	—	3,283	74,018	70,000	—	4,018.
Other British Possessions	770	5,310	4,540	—	673	889	216	—	1,443	6,199	4,756	—
France	19,506	18,302	—	1,204	—	—	—	—	19,506	18,302	—	1,204
Madagascar	9,935	13,645	3,710	—	4,337	3,017	—	1,320	14,272	16,662	2,390	—
Reunion Island	12,596	22,193	9,597	—	1,302	5,890	4,588	—	13,898	28,083	14,185	—
Pondicherry	11,032	8,010	—	3,082	2,597	469	—	2,128	13,689	8,479	—	5,210
Other Foreign Countries	8,787	6,876	—	1,911	1,858	5,314	3,456	—	10,645	12,190	1,545	—
Total	175,653	199,005	30,284	6,932	56,689	62,351	12,393	6,731	232,342	261,356	39,446	10,432
Deduct Decrease	—	—	6,932	—	—	—	6,731	—	—	—	10,432	—
Net Increase	—	—	23,352	—	—	—	5,662	—	—	—	29,014	—

C.

VESSELS ENTERED INWARDS.

					1856.		1857.	
					No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British Vessels	-	-	-	-	439	155,753	468	182,278
American	-	-	-	-	3	2,160	9	4,960
Arab	-	-	-	-	4	1,292	2	520
Belgian	-	-	-	-	2	853	—	—
Chilian	-	-	-	-	1	260	—	—
Danish	-	-	-	-	—	—	2	954
Dutch	-	-	-	-	6	3,319	2	1,473
French	-	-	-	-	208	71,687	231	77,644
Hanseatic Towns	-	-	-	-	8	3,586	3	852
Hawaiian	-	-	-	-	1	280	—	—
Jerusalem	-	-	-	-	1	274	—	—
Lombok	-	-	-	-	—	—	2	211
Norwegian	-	-	-	-	—	—	1	327
Sardinian	-	-	-	-	2	620	1	341
Swedish	-	-	-	-	3	756	7	2,434
Total	-	-	-	-	678	240,840	728	271,994

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D.

VESSELS CLEARED OUTWARDS.

		1857.		1856.	
		No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British Vessels	- - - -	416	151,362	452	175,158
American	- - - -	4	3,455	8	4,502
Arab	- - - -	4	1,292	1	260
Belgian	- - - -	1	332	1	531
Chilian	- - - -	1	260	—	—
Danish	- - - -	—	—	2	954
Dutch	- - - -	7	3,495	2	1,473
French	- - - -	197	67,427	227	74,596
Hanseatic Towns	- - - -	6	3,200	3	786
Hawaiian	- - - -	1	203	—	—
Jerusalem	- - - -	1	274	—	—
Lomboc	- - - -	—	—	1	131
Norwegian	- - - -	—	—	1	328
Sardinian	- - - -	2	620	1	340
Swedish	- - - -	2	422	6	2,297
Total	- - - -	642	232,342	705	261,356

Agriculture and Manufactures.

149. The interruption of Immigration in the latter part of 1856 and in the early part of 1857 appears to have occasioned serious embarrassments to the planters. Large plantations had been prepared in the previous year, and an abundant supply of guano had been plentifully applied; but the want of labour, from the cessation of Immigration, as well as from other sources of local difficulty, greatly retarded the progressive operations of the field.

150. In consequence of this, not only did weeds take possession of the soil, but many canes were left uncut; and although the manufacture of last year's crop was continued as late as February and even March in the present year, it is doubtful whether the Exports of the past year will be equal to that of the previous year, notwithstanding all the preparations for an augmented harvest.

151. The better opinion of the planters appears to be, that in consequence of the larger breadth of land under cultivation, and the interruptions that were experienced from the causes I have noticed, the general aspect of the Sugar Estates has not been so favourable during the past year as during the previous one. But nevertheless the recent augmentation of agricultural assistance, and the free application of manures, is rapidly restoring the farms, even in their extended state, to the perfection which the liberal expenditure of means justly entitled them to attain, and certainly the present appearance of most of them is exceedingly favourable to their prosperity.

152. The year 1857 was not marked by any particular improvement in the machinery of estates or the manufacture of sugars. Some few patents were taken out, but no great results are expected from them. Every endeavour is, however, used by the planters to bring into use the latest and best improvements in the manufacture of sugar, and some of the samples which are occasionally produced, more for the purpose of exhibiting the powers of the machinery than for the purposes of the market, prove the great perfection to which this branch of manufacture has been advanced.

153. And were it not for the discouragements which naturally result from the protection that is given to the refineries, the finest and whitest sugar that modern improvements are capable of producing would be displayed in the English markets.

154. For these causes, however, it is said to be less profitable to produce these superior sugars than to manufacture the darker and coarser varieties.

155. The general aspect on the whole of agriculture and manufactures in the island is as encouraging as can possibly be expected, under the temporary difficulties that have been noticed, and the expectations of the planters are as sanguine, subject only to their natural anxieties as to the future arrangements of immigration.

156. The estimated extent of last year's crop of sugar is said to have been about 230,000,000 lbs., and its supposed value not far from 3,000,000*l.* sterling, according to the average market prices of this Island.]

Immigration.

157. There were imported last year from the three Presidencies of India 13,723 immigrants, of whom the proportion of females to males was about 40 per cent., being a far larger proportion than that regulated by Government for last year's importation.

158. During the same year 4,600 returned to India, 2,918 births took place and 4,878 deaths, leaving an aggregate Indian population of 107,072 males and 35,462 females, being a proportion of about 3 to 1, the increase during the year (including births, and deducting deaths and departures,) being 4,015.

159. Of these, but a limited number only were introduced under the Law of No. 12. of 1855, which sanctions private importations under certain stipulations, as it was found that the sixth clause encourages rival planters, through the agency of their sirdars, to disappoint the expectations of the importers, by tempting these imported immigrants to enter into other engagements than those which they were specially engaged to make, and thereby the good effects of the law have been completely neutralised.

160. It is hoped, however, that representations which have been forwarded upon this and other subjects relative to immigration will have the effect of removing this difficulty, which has been a severe obstacle to the operation of a law intended to be beneficial to the spirited and enterprising planter.

161. Although other channels of immigration to this Colony are open to the planters, and facilities have been given, as well as restrictions imposed, by a late law (23, of 1857), to the importation of labour from places not within the territory of India, yet the chances in favour of importation from other places than India are not very great; nor, indeed, now that the planters have been accustomed to the Indians, and the latter to the former, is there much desire evinced to resort to other places than India for the required supply of ordinary agricultural labour.

162. But as tradesmen, artificers, and other skilled workmen are in great demand, and not to be supplied from the ordinary ranks of imported "Coolies," it is probable that the new law will be resorted to for the importation of that class of servants, if they can be procured from other fields of migration.

163. Several places have been named as likely to furnish sources of desirable colonial labour, but the law is not yet in operation.

164. In this country the native habits of the Indians are sufficiently respected and preserved, the climate is favourable to them, and their gains are great,—greater, I believe, than they would be if they went three times the distance to more unknown and less inviting colonies; while the voyage is so short, and the terms of engagement so easy, that the Indian who desires to emigrate at all never hesitates in giving preference to this Island.

165. At the same time, the constant return of natives to India, with their favourable accounts of the abundance that prevails here, and with the evidence which their well-filled purses furnish, never fails to attract numbers to this Island, which they are always ready to visit, in the certainty that, after their short period of service, they can return to their own country with a sum that would there appear a little fortune, or stay here and amass what would soon be regarded as wealth.

166. No place to which the Indian immigrant can go is so favourable to him as is this Colony, and to no other would he so willingly expatriate himself either for a season or a permanency.

Grants of Land.

167. The only transactions of note during 1857 respecting Crown Lands which are likely to be attended with collateral public advantage were the granting of leases to Mr. Vigoureux and Mr. Villemain.

168. The former was granted a lease for 21 years of a piece of land bordering on the Fanfaron Harbour, for the purpose of a marine yard, subject to the payment of 300*l.* per annum, and the construction of a quay wall along the sea front. This land consists of several old *jouissances* purchased and reunited; and it is here that the lessee proposes to construct a dry dock of large dimensions, which will be of great value to the commercial interests and also to the vessels of Her Majesty's Navy.

169. Mr. Villemain was granted the lease for 10 years of a forest of about 650 acres in extent, near the Piton du Millieu, for an almost nominal rent of 32*l.* 10*s.* per annum, the chief object to himself being the preservation of the game, and the object to the Colony being the preservation of timber and the forest, both of which the lessee has undertaken strictly to guard.

170. The conservation of these important forests for all the purposes for which they are anxiously maintained is thereby ensured without difficulty or expense to the Government.

GAOLS, PRISONERS, AND CRIMES.

Prison of Port Louis.

171. The total committals in 1857 to the prison of Port Louis alone were 6,763, and in 1856, 6,710; showing an increase during 1857 of 53.

172. The committals to the same prison for vagrancy and desertion from services in 1857 were 4,546, and in 1856, 4,480; the increase being 66.

173. It thus appears that the committals for vagrancy and desertion in each of these two years are more than two thirds of the whole committals, and that those in 1857 exceeded those in 1856 by 66.

174. The cause of this excess is the increased vigilance and severity of the police in apprehending deserters, and especially the practice of apprehending all Indians found on Sundays in the thoroughfares who cannot show passes or papers; a practice which I greatly condemn, and am endeavouring by degrees to alter.

175. Since the year 1852 the punishments under this head have increased from 3,202 to 4,546.

176. On the other hand, there has been a slight diminution in committals for other offences, and convictions for the infraction of municipal regulations have likewise decreased.

177. The committals for ordinary theft have, however, increased from 643 in 1856 to 688 in 1857, being the largest number that has yet been attained.

MAURITIUS.

178. For slight assaults, also, there has been an increase from 180 to 230, while the committals for murder, manslaughter, poisoning, and infanticide in 1856 were 37, and in 1857, 40.

179. There has also been an increase in committals under the Merchant Shipping Act, from 211 in 1856 to 287 in 1857.

180. The daily average of prisoners in the Port Louis Gaol in 1856 was 490, and in 1857, 468, although the committals in the latter year were considerably more numerous; consequently, while there has been an increase in the number of prisoners, there has been a diminution in the gravity of their crimes, if that can be fairly tested by the terms of imprisonment. A comparison of the whole committals with the daily average number of prisoners during the last six years shows that this improvement has been progressive.

181. The prisoners have been employed as follows :

DAILY AVERAGE OF PRISONERS.

182.	At public works out of prison in Port Louis	-	-	-	-	66
	Employed by municipality out of prison	-	-	-	-	20
	Working in prison at productive labour	-	-	-	-	180
	Working in service of prison, and attending sick in hospital	-	-	-	-	45
	Sick	-	-	-	-	9
	Unemployed; debtors, untried prisoners, and convalescents	-	-	-	-	47
	In the country districts at public works	-	-	-	-	101
	Total daily average	-	-	-	-	468

183. It thus appears that the average number of prisoners employed within the prison is 225, or less than half those imprisoned; and that of these, 45 are in service of the prison, and attending sick in hospital.

184. The latter number is excessive, and the prison arrangements in this respect are under investigation. It is also exceedingly questionable whether any prisoners should be employed as attendants at the hospital, which is at a distance from the prison, because not only can such duties not be regarded as penal labour, but the prisoners so employed are not under prison discipline or duress. I hope soon to alter this erroneous practice.

185. With regard to the prisoners engaged in out-door labour, averaging 189 daily, it is true that assistance has been given by this means to carrying out certain Public Works, *e. g.*—

The quarantine station at Flat Island, quarantine station at Cannoniers Point, bridge at Plaines Wilhems, bridge at Pailles, as well as the Lunatic Asylum at Grand River, and that without their aid much of the heavy work of those public undertakings would have been greatly retarded :

186. But when it is considered that for guarding prisoners so employed a large number of police have been withdrawn from their proper duties, it is more than doubtful whether any economy has been effected. This employment of police I am about to substitute by that of regular prison guards, so long as the practice continues of employing the prisoners on the public works. But in fact it was not so much a question of economy as a matter of necessity arising out of the great scarcity of labour.

187. On the other hand, the employment of out-door parties has interfered with prison discipline; and opportunities of escape, and of obtaining spirits and tobacco, or of meeting friends, (all of which are now most strictly prohibited,) have been among the evil consequences of the practice.

188. The Prison Committee, who have made strong representations to the Government against the practice, have expressed a hope that the introduction of an increased number of immigrants for road purposes and public works will enable the Government to dispense with a mode of employment which, however well conducted it may be, but slightly punishes, and in no way reclaims, the prisoner. I fear, however, that some time must elapse, for reasons which I have officially reported elsewhere, before the employment of prisoners on the Public Works of importance can be strictly dispensed with.

189. Offences against prison regulations have diminished, and those committed by Indians are much fewer, in proportion to the number of Indian prisoners, than those committed by Europeans or Creoles. The difference evidently arises from the much greater docility of the Indian character.

190. With regard to the instruction of prisoners, the system has continued as defective as in former years, owing, probably, to the difficulty of educating systematically so heterogeneous a population, embracing, as it does, Europeans of several nations, Creoles, and Indians, of every creed and language.

191. The only education hitherto given has been by clergymen and catechists, whose visits have been almost entirely limited to a few hours on Sunday. No secular education is yet given in the prison.

192. The Prison Committee are now directing their earnest attention to this subject, in the hope of being able soon to improve the system, by introducing regular secular education, as well as a much greater amount of moral and religious teaching for those who are under sufficiently long sentences to justify any expectation of improvement.

193. One great difficulty in the way of training, both secular and religious, is the classification of prisoners. The prison contains offenders of every kind, from the contravener of a trifling police regulation to the felon convicted of the greatest crimes. If the prisoners were all of one nation, classifying for education and discipline would be difficult in so varied a multitude, but the varieties of race and languages multiply the difficulties many fold. The prison, too, is very ill adapted for carrying out a systematic classification, as it has not been built on any general plan, but consists of a number of independent buildings and yards. It is, in fact, a mere place of confinement for prisoners and contains none of the improved arrangements for true penitentiary discipline.

194. A good system of penal discipline, or prison education, cannot therefore be expected in a prison, which neither in its buildings nor in its population is fitted for a penitentiary. All that can be hoped for is some slight improvement of the present defective practice in these important particulars. The Committee of the Prisons are now alive to the necessity of endeavouring to do the best they can for this end; and it is hoped that the report for next year will contain more satisfactory results.

195. The health of the prisoners has continued as good as in former years, only seven having died among the whole 6,763 committed during the year. The average number in hospital is nine, or about two per cent. on the daily average prison population. The sanitary condition of this prison, therefore, is highly satisfactory, and is attributable to the habits of cleanliness which are enforced, as well as to the good quality and fair measure of prison rations.

District Prisons.

196. Most of the remarks applied to the Prison of Port Louis are equally applicable to the prisons of the districts, in all of which combined (seven in number) there are not quite so many prisoners as in the Gaol of Port Louis alone. Capital crimes, and all higher misdemeanours, are tried in Port Louis; and the municipal prisoners, and the vagrants who are brought to justice in the town, help to swell the prison ranks, irrespectively of the amount of ordinary crime to be expected from the larger number of its fixed urban population.

197. I have no particular remarks to make about these District Prisons, further than by saying that none of them possess the improved character and accommodation of modern prisons, and few of them deserve the appellation of prisons, in the most ordinary acceptance of the term.

THE DEPENDENCIES.

198. I have little to say on the subject of our Dependencies, which are so distant from this Island, and with which there is so little communication, that, beyond the correspondence and occasional reports proceeding from the Civil Commissioner, and relating to the ordinary business of the islands, I feel myself almost a stranger to their interests, and see at present but little prospect of materially improving their condition.

199. To meet the wants of the present occupants of these islands, very little seems to be required beyond an encouragement to industrial pursuits, to which, for the most part, they are strangers. Their mode of life is exceedingly simple; their habits are indolent; their positive wants are few and easily supplied; and their artificial wants, which should prompt them to laborious pursuits, are so trifling in their present state of society as scarcely to encourage the hope that they will prompt them to much exertion.

200. The Civil Commissioner, however, uses his best endeavours to promote the improvement of the population, and to encourage them to enterprising industry in any of the numerous fields which present themselves. But, like all small communities in which the stimulus for industry is not felt, the results are not likely to manifest themselves to any great extent; and, until a few enterprising capitalists take possession of some of the soil of those islands, and are instrumental in importing labour into them, no great change can be expected in their condition, and the improvement of the present occupants must be very gradual.

201. I have built much expectation on a regular postal communication with the Seychelles, as a means of producing important improvements in those Dependencies, and if the arrangements which will soon be completed for our postal service should include the duty of touching at the Seychelles, both in going and returning, it will give me every confidence that the beneficial effects which will be expected from capital, enterprise, and newly-imported labour will be successfully carried out, for it is certain that, whatever opening a country may offer for the employment of capital and labour, neither the one nor the other will be found there unless the means of communication can be facilitated, and a market thereby opened for their products.

202. Since the alterations that I have made in our postal service, I have required the packets to touch at the Seychelles, both in going and returning, whenever they could do so without detriment to the punctual service of the Colony; and this arrangement has been carried out as far as practicable, and has already produced some beneficial results.

203. But the arrangement being merely provisional, and the packet service still imperfect, no further advantage can be expected than the evidence which will be furnished to the inhabitants of the Seychelles that, whenever they send the products of their labour and industry to this island, a ready and a profitable market will be opened to them here.

204. I have not yet received the Civil Commissioner's Official Report for the Blue Book, but I am satisfied, from the short periodical returns he makes, with the endeavour he is using for improvement of those Dependencies, and for the advantage of the present inhabitants, and, being a practical man of business, I am sure that he will endeavour to carry out the object of improvement to the best of his ability, so far as the small means at his disposal will enable him to do so.

205. The church, which is alluded to in last year's Report, is slowly advancing towards completion; and the educational efforts, which are necessarily very small, are as satisfactory as can be expected under the difficulties both of means and machinery.

206. Until the islands can produce more revenue, it seems scarcely justifiable to furnish from this Colony alone all the means and machinery that are required for educational and other improvement of the present inhabitants, to a greater extent than those wants are at present supplied. I nevertheless think that more should be done for them in this respect, without reference to our prospective improved advantages, or to the chances of reimbursement from any possible sources of improved future revenue.

MAURITIUS.

207. But I feel satisfied that the mere education of those people, unless it be coupled with some industrial teaching, which will give them an idea of its value, by producing some tangible result in a familiar and profitable shape, will not have any permanent effect; and I think that this Government would be reluctant to contribute much towards the object of education alone, unless they saw a reasonable chance of benefit to the people, by engendering those industrial habits and artificial wants which would prompt them to exertion in the pursuit of profitable industry, and sooner or later assist in developing the resources of the country, and in showing its powers of raising a self-supporting revenue equal to all its future demands.

General Remarks.

208. The favourable anticipations of the continuing prosperity of the Island are still realized. The Colony stands pre-eminent for the triumph achieved by immigration conducted upon a liberal scale, coupled with improved farming and superior machinery for the development of the resources of the Colony.

209. Fifteen years ago, the value of Indian labour was almost unknown in the country. Last year the imported population numbered nearly 140,000 souls, and with the augmenting population the staple product and manufacture of the country has continued to improve in gradual progressive augmentation.

210. This large supply of Indian labour has not, however, been without its evils. The two severe invasions of cholera, which occurred in 1854 and 1856, swept off large numbers of the native population of the Island, and occasioned serious apprehensions as to the future visitations of that fearful disease.

211. Although every precaution has been used by the imposition of laws and penalties, and enormous expenditure incurred in the erection of stations, yet the difficulties of dealing with Indian immigration on a large scale, with reference to quarantine and sanitary regulations, have been very serious. Those difficulties still continue to a great degree, although they are becoming gradually removed, as facilities for the enforcement of quarantine are made more complete. But still, as long as Indian migration lasts, the apprehension of epidemic visitations will never be entirely removed; and, occasionally, when three or four vessels arrive with cholera on board, rendering it necessary (as is the case at this moment) to place nearly a thousand persons in close quarantine at Flat Island, the alarms are very great, and the anxieties of the Government to allay them by the use of unremitting precautions are necessarily very deep.

212. The long-agitated question of a quarantine establishment at Rodrigues has now been determined against the adoption of that station, its distance, 350 miles from this island, notwithstanding all its other advantages, rendering it impossible to preserve that strict surveillance and discipline which a quarantine station must always command, so that the Flat Island station has been advanced in its importance and accommodation; and an auxiliary one at "Ile Benitiers," as a station of observation, and for the relief of the principal station when overcrowded, is likewise in contemplation.

213. The character of the peasantry of this Colony has by this extensive immigration become entirely changed. The Indians have superseded the native population as agricultural labourers; and while the value of immigration has been proved as the regenerator of agricultural prosperity, the same evidence equally attests the fact that, for the production of the staples of the country on a large scale, the native population have proved utterly valueless.

214. The comparatively small numbers now employed on sugar estates show that very shortly that class of labourers will soon become unknown; indeed, the relation of master and servant is obnoxious to them in any form, the recollection of past days among the old, and the traditions of slavery among the young, inducing the apprehension that every species of *service* is *servitude*. For this reason they dislike even the idea of "apprenticeship" to trades, and think they can follow the latter by intuition rather than regular instruction.

215. With this alteration in the character of the peasantry, corresponding changes in the laws and in the mode of dealing with the new population have not been sufficiently efficacious. They are still defective in many respects, and they require consolidation and amendment, as well as addition, to adapt them to the wants and requirements of the new people.

216. As the Indian population in their character of agricultural labourers and domestic servants, are the principal clients of the Stipendiary Magistrates, and furnish them with ample occupation in their courts, it has been considered necessary to augment the numbers of those Magistrates, and to separate their duties from those of the District Magistrates, in order that they may be enabled to do sufficient justice to that portion of the population peculiarly intrusted to their magisterial care and control.

217. These and other improvements, which will be beneficial to the planter as well as to the Indian population, have been sanctioned by the Government, and are now in operation or in progress.

218. One peculiarity in this Colony is the concentration of its urban population in the city of Port Louis alone, which contains at least one fourth of the entire population of the island. There is no other town in the island, nor is there, in any of the rural districts, any aggregation of houses or inhabitants deserving the appellation of a village, with the exception of Mahébourg, which is a military station, and Pamplemousses, which may possess some pretensions to the designation of a village.

219. The difficulty that has resulted from this is the impossibility of procuring accommodation for Magistrates and their clerks and other district functionaries, while the want of centralisation of district populations is fatal to general improvement, either as regards education or other social advantages.

220. The object which I have long had in view, and which I hope will soon tend to remove these difficulties, is an attempt at the formation of small towns, by erecting the few public buildings that are

required in each district in convenient central situations, making them in each case the nucleus of a town, and offering encouragement to others to extend the operations by building their own houses and cottages, so as gradually to form a well-arranged and creditable district town.

221. The limited accommodation afforded by the harbour of Port Louis for the large number of vessels by which it is always thronged also prompts the necessity of establishing a second maritime town in the island, and the harbour of Mahébourg, which was first resorted to by the early colonists, and afterwards abandoned for the more favourable position of Port Louis, offers every advantage for renewed encouragement. It has indeed been used on two or three very recent occasions as a port of entry and clearance, for which it was sanctioned more than 20 years ago; and as its re-establishment will afford the greatest benefit to the sugar plantations on that side of the Island, and the proposed railway through the south-eastern districts will give them ready access to its harbour, I have it in contemplation to accelerate the improvement of that port, for the threefold purpose of benefiting the inhabitants and agriculturists of that quarter, furnishing better accommodation to our district functionaries there, and relieving the town of Port Louis of a large number of its redundant inhabitants.

222. Important as may have been the improvements gradually made during the last few years, very many more still remain to be accomplished. As is invariably the case in all communities in which great staple products give large accession of wealth to particular individuals engaged in agricultural occupations, and corresponding prosperity to those engaged in mercantile pursuits, trades, and lucrative employments, so does it follow that minor advantages are to a great degree neglected, and social benefits are comparatively disregarded.

223. Those who are engaged in the pursuit of wealth will not find time to devote to these duties, which they erroneously regard as secondary or inferior. Those who are not so engaged do not possess the means of embarking in them; for in precisely the same ratio in which wealth is showered on the planter, the merchant, and the tradesman, do difficulties encompass those who do not participate in those prosperous undertakings; and in a busy country like this, very few, if any, are to be found who are ready to give their time and attention, irrespectively of their means, to those works which promote the great social progress of communities.

224. To this may be in a great measure attributed the defective state of all those institutions which are found to flourish elsewhere. Churches are required, schoolhouses are greatly needed, asylums and hospitals are wanted in the districts, and the few which exist in the town call for careful supervision and improvement. Mechanics' institutes, and other institutions intended for the improvement of the people, are nowhere to be found. Prisons are defective, and in some parts of the Island wholly wanting. And, more than all, the agency and assistance of spirited private individuals who would take a lively interest in all these social advancements is very severely felt.

225. The impression in this Island is, that all these matters rest with the Government alone, and therefore few private persons will embark in the work of social improvement. The time and labour of official men and of Government employés of all degrees are already too much engrossed in their public duties to enable them to devote as much attention as is needed to these important objects; but I hope soon to induce more active private instrumentality in these respects; indeed I think a change has already commenced.

226. Among the civil institutions which are inadequate to the wants of the Colony, is the police establishment of the town and rural districts. The great difficulty in organising a good police arises out of the peculiar disposition and temperament of the people who generally engage in that service.

227. The mixed varieties of races and languages make it exceedingly difficult to discipline and instruct the police in their most ordinary duties; and the numerous calls for their services for quarantine purposes, guarding prisoners, and apprehending vagrants, as well as in the performance of other duties which do not very properly belong to the "police," have very greatly tended to detract from their efficiency; while at the same time their numbers have by these means been so reduced as to render them wholly unequal to the increased requirements of the country. The improvement of this force will soon engage legislative attention.

228. I think it unnecessary to dwell much on the condition of our public offices, which, notwithstanding the improvements which may have taken place, are still unequal to the duties required of them.

229. Those duties have more than doubled since the great general prosperity of the Island has manifested itself; the work has increased in every department, but the workmen have not been augmented, neither has their extra labour been requited by any corresponding augmentation of their pay.

230. On the contrary, it may be said that their pay has been reduced, for, although the amounts they receive may remain the same in figures, the value of money is less, and the price of all articles of consumption is greater. The real income of 1858 is not more than two thirds the real income of 1848, and yet the public services which such income is intended to repay are more than double those of the former year.

231. The representations I have been obliged to make to the Government upon this point will no doubt produce improvements in the public service in this and other respects, which are in all its branches very loudly demanded.

232. Upon the whole review of the past and present condition of the Colony, I feel every confidence that by carrying out all the objects of improvement suggested by my predecessor, and promoting others, but augmenting in both cases the means of advancing them with that more liberal expenditure which recent changes in the circumstances of the Colony demand, but at the same time without incurring the charge of unnecessary extravagance, there will soon be as marked an improvement in the public and social institutions of the Colony as at present exists in its general wealth and prosperity, and my best exertions for the accomplishment of these objects, under Divine assistance, shall not be relaxed.

WILLIAM STEVENSON.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.

&c. &c. &c.

PART III.

AFRICAN SETTLEMENTS AND ST. HELENA.

PART III.—AFRICAN SETTLEMENTS AND ST. HELENA.

SIERRA
LEONE.

No. 52.

SIERRA LEONE.

No. 25.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor HILL to the Right Hon. Lord STANLEY.

(No. 76.)
MY LORD,

Government House, Sierra Leone, April 30, 1858.
(Received June 8, 1858.)

I HAVE the honour to forward by this opportunity the duplicate copy of the Blue Book for the year 1857.

2. Having in my report on the Blue Book for 1856 entered fully into the statistical details of the colony, it does not seem necessary that I should travel over the same ground. I will therefore confine myself to a few general observations.

3. I am happy to be able to state that the revenue of the colony indicates a decided improvement in its trade. In the Customs alone there has been an increase of 3,453*l.* 16*s.* over the receipts of the previous year. This increase has been derived from the following sources, viz. :

	£	s.	d.
Imports - - - - -	1,895	5	0
Tonnage dues - - - - -	919	7	0
Light dues - - - - -	135	13	0
Harbour dues - - - - -	345	19	3
Auction duties - - - - -	157	11	9

4. A rigid enforcement of the law with respect to spirit licences has had the effect of putting a stop to much illicit trade, and an increase to the revenue of 696*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* on that item has been the result.

5. I am not however so sanguine as to believe that the customs will yield the same revenue this year as the last; merchants may be overstocked, and the commercial panic with which the mother country was stricken during the year just brought to a close can hardly fail to exercise its influence in checking the flow of trade.

6. There can be no doubt that the security which this colony affords over the settlements of the neighbouring tribes renders it a safe and desirable place of deposit for merchandise, and the bonding system being in full operation makes the warehousing of their goods of little or no expense to the merchants.

7. Whether as a fiscal arrangement it would not be desirable to abolish the bonding system altogether, and reduce the rate of duties, is a problem to which I have not as yet been able to find a satisfactory solution. It appears to me just now too doubtful to be ventured upon.

8. The colonial expenditure shows a decrease of 300*l.* in comparison with the previous year, and I shall continue to exercise the utmost watchfulness in order to keep it within due bounds.

9. The colony is fortunately not burdened with any public debt. 2,800*l.* are held in deposits which can be liquidated at any moment, although there is reason to believe that there are no known representatives to the far greater portion, and that consequently no demand will ever be made for the same, as the amount is chiefly made up of deposits from unrepresented estates.

10. The colony has not hitherto had to sustain any expense on account of its military defences, these having been borne by the imperial Government, and a detachment of the 1st West India regiment has been stationed here during the past year. Having succeeded in passing the militia ordinance and appointing the officers, I hope soon to be able to call out and embody such a number of men for drill as will secure a valuable auxiliary force to Her Majesty's troops. This corps, after the first outlay for clothing and accoutrements for the men, can be supported at little cost; and I would take this

opportunity of expressing my acknowledgments to Her Majesty's Government for the very generous present of eight hundred rifles and 100,000 rounds of ball cartridge which the Secretary of State for War has been pleased to make to the colony for the service of its militia.

11. The public works are generally speaking in good condition; and I hope this year to be able to begin the long contemplated wharf, which, when completed, will afford great facility to the merchants and Her Majesty's ships, and I have no doubt improve our general trade.

12. The most important ordinances which passed during the year have doubtless been those for the settlement of claims to grants of land and the registration ordinance. I may also congratulate myself on having succeeded in obtaining a general codification of the laws in force in the colony, which having been published in a neat volume cannot fail to be of great service to the legal profession and the public at large.

13. The ecclesiastical and educational establishments of the colony are in an improving state. The parish school in St. George's is well attended; and, with the advice and consent of the Council, I have given the children's pence to the colonial chaplain, to assist him in increasing the staff of monitors.

14. The trade of the colony as shown by its imports and exports has been as follows:—

From Great Britain—

Imports 143,203*l.* 16*s.*, against
90,539*l.* 13*s.* 11*d.* Exports
thereto.

From British Colonies—

Imports 770*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.*, against
6,582*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* Exports.

From France—

Imports 1,831*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.*, against
5,062*l.* 10*s.* Exports.

From the coast of Africa—

Imports 10,596*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.*, against
90,071*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.* Exports.

From the United States of America—

Imports 16,017*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.*, against
50,071*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.* Exports.

15. I ventured in my report on the proceedings of the year 1856 to predict a satisfactory progress in the increasing prosperity of the colony, and I now have the gratification of remarking that my anticipations on this head have been fully realized during the past year 1857.

I have, &c.

(Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL,
Governor.

The Right Hon. the Secretary of State,
&c. &c. &c.

GAMBIA.

GAMBIA.

No. 26.

No. 26.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor O'CONNOR to the Right Honourable
Sir E. BULWER LYTTON, Bart.

(No. 30.)

Government House,
Bathurst, Gambia, July 10, 1858.
(Received August 9, 1858.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the "Blue Book" of this colony for 1857.

Revenue.

2. The monetary crisis in "England and France," the failures of eminent houses in the "United States," operated, more or less, on the commercial interests of Gambia, reduced the importation of European and foreign goods, of rum and tobacco, staple commodities of trade among the natives, and thereby the customs due were slightly diminished when compared with 1856. On the other hand, the demand of tonnage for the ground nut trade considerably increased.

GAMBIA.

Imports and Exports.

3. The total value of imports in 1856 amounted to 108,852*l.* 5*s.*, in 1857 increased to 118,620*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.*, an augmentation of 9,768*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.* In 1856 the exports 176,577*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.* in 1857 increased to 201,672*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.*, an augmentation of 25,094*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.* This excess in imports and exports arose from the progressive and prosperous condition of the ground nut trade, mainly promoted by our peaceful relations with the nations and tribes adjacent to the British territory along the banks of the River Gambia to the most distant factory, "Yaboo Tenda," 350 miles from Bathurst.

4. 10,874 tons of ground nuts, valued at 130,496*l.* 8*s.*, were exported in 1856; 13,554 tons of ground nuts, valued at 162,649*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*, were exported in 1857, an increase of 2,680 tons and of 32,153*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* sterling in *one* article alone in twelve months.

Public Works.

5. The only public works undertaken and completed during 1857 were a court room and gaol under the one roof, and a market at M'Carthy's Island. A confined ruinous half stone and mud building had been used as a prison for debtors and criminals for many years, and a miserable shed for the market.

6. At the trifling expenditure of 618*l.* a lot and building were purchased, the latter converted into a gaol with well ventilated rooms, and a court yard for debtors and cells for criminals.

7. The market, constructed for 70*l.*, has not only increased the cleanliness and comfort of the inhabitants, but yields an annual revenue of 30*l.*, a profitable per centage for the original outlay.

8. A roomy shed in an enclosed yard has been appropriated to the use of the tread-mill sent out on my recommendation, thereby saving the expense of erecting a new building.

9. My opinion in favour of the tread-mill has been confirmed, that by degrees it will deter hardened offenders from committing crimes which would subject them to the disgusting punishment of "public whipping." A man's mind and morals are seldom improved by lacerating his back with the lash, but the tread-mill, totally unknown, and a marvellous machine in Africa, produces a wholesome dread of its operations, and demanding regular and constant exertion, brief as the time may be, tends to prevent the natives from violating the rules of civilized society, and consequently will diminish crime.

10. The tread-mill may be applied to useful purposes, sawing beams, boards, planks, or blocks of stone as in York Castle, or, with extra machinery, cleaning and bruising corn, rice, millet, or other grain.

GEOGRAPHICAL AND COMMERCIAL.

Expeditions.

11. In November and December I undertook a geographical expedition in Her Majesty's colonial steamer "Dover," six hundred miles down the coast, proceeding up the "Jeba" and "Rio Grande" rivers, visiting the scarcely known and singularly interesting "Bijuga Islands," especially Kanabec and Orango, the latter a rich, fertile, picturesque island upwards of twenty-eight miles in length, with a wild, savagely reputed, but finely framed and, to me, civil population, the country and the natives presenting a vast field for commercial speculation.

12. The Orango islanders are wrapped in singular obscurity, and greatly dreaded even by the ancient, once enterprising pioneers of Africa, the Portuguese. The difficult and dangerous channel leading to their island was unsurveyed, I may say unsailed over, until the keel of the "Dover" ploughed its waters.

13. With regard to the natives and islanders on the western coast of Africa, I cordially coincide in the opinion of the experienced traveller Livingstone that "no permanent elevation of a people can be effected without commerce."

14. After some hazardous attempts we discovered the channel and mouth of the "Kittafiny River," north of the "Rio Nunez," and where an association composed of an English subject, a Frenchman, and an Italian was reported by the Portuguese Government to exist.

15. Crossing the shallow bar we ran the steamer as far up the river as was safe and practicable, when I landed and inspected the factories of Messrs. Beaise, Colombino, and M. Le Cerf; but it is superfluous for me to dwell upon further particulars, having already forwarded detailed reports and charts of the "Orango Channel" and "Kittafiny River."

16. In February and March, I made my usual visit to the several kings, chiefs, and head men, on and adjacent to the banks of the river Gambia as far as the "Falls of Barraconda."

17. On this occasion I ascended the "Vintain Creek," and penetrated the "Sanding Creek" for some distance, which, in my opinion, connects the Gambia with the Rio Cazamances—a geographical question well worthy of solution; for if my conjecture proved correct the danger and difficulty of communication between Gambia and the "Rio Cazamances" would become considerably diminished, the bar of the latter being always hazardous, frequently impassable.

18. It would always prevent our wax traders from being plundered by wild Feeloops and Jolahs, who seriously impede this valuable branch of our trade.

19. My report of an expedition up the "Rio Cazamances" in 1855, the progressive encroachments of the French at the expense of the Portuguese, the old and legitimate discoverers of the river and once possessors of the chief factories on its banks, is becoming verified, and the importance attached by the French to the possession and the monopoly of the Rio Cazamances are very cleverly and clearly exhibited in the report of M. Bocandé to the minister of marine.

Military.

20. The military buildings at Gambia, including those at M'Carthy's island, have undergone very necessary and sanitary repairs and improvements. The soldiers barrack at Bathurst will now afford ample accommodation for one hundred and eighty men, with eight separate double quarters for non-commissioned officers.

21. The piazza and ends of the officers' barracks exposed to the violence of the tornadoes and scorching influence of the sun, jalousied and partitioned, give protection from the weather and heat, and a small second room to each officer.

22. The military hospital has been considerably improved, and a double flooring, with asphalted felt between the boards, effectually protect the officers quartered in the upper story from the disagreeable consequences which must be produced by the inmates of a basement story in an hospital in a climate like Western Africa.

23. The important post at Cape Saint Marys, the key-stone of Bathurst, I have long and sedulously advocated as the proper head-quarters for the troops, is undergoing improvements and repairs.

General Observations.

24. Having already furnished five Blue Books embracing statistical returns, tables, and reports of Her Majesty's settlements on the river Gambia, little remains for me to add save that the colony and colonists are gradually and steadily progressing, that my opinion of the native merchants, traders, artificers, and commonalty of Bathurst so fully and freely given in the Blue Book for 1856 is justified and confirmed, and that the day is not far distant when Gambia from its geographical position, the means it presents by a noble river navigable for three hundred and fifty miles, as the easiest road into the interior, spreading among the wild and wandering natives European wants, customs, manners, commerce, and, what must follow, civilization, creating a market for our home manufactures, and conveying from distant dimly known regions their varied and valuable productions, affording to the denizens of the desert flocking to the Colony security of person and property, a legitimate and liberal opportunity for reciprocal trading, gradually by slow but sure degrees teaching and convincing them that settled, peaceful pursuits are far more pleasurable and profitable than the erratic, savage, demoralizing existence, bearing in its train bloodshed, plunder, slavery of their forefathers, and blindly followed by themselves.

25. I repeat the day is not far distant when Gambia will rank as the most valuable possession of the British, in commercial importance, on the western coast of Africa.

I have, &c.

(Signed) L. SMYTH O'CONNOR.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.

&c.

&c.

&c.

GOLD COAST.

GOLD COAST.

No. 27.

No. 27.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor SIR BENJ. C. C. PINE to the Right Hon.
LORD STANLEY, M.P.

(No. 48.)

Cape Coast Castle, 10 May 1858.
(Received 13th July 1858.)

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book for the year 1857.

As I have so fully described the state of these settlements in numerous despatches during the past year, I do not deem it necessary to trouble your Lordship with any special report upon this document, particularly as the returns relating to the Eastern District which, until very lately, had been long virtually severed from the Protectorate, are necessarily very imperfect.

I would beg, however, to call your Lordship's attention to the interesting Medical Report of Dr. Clarke, one of the Colonial Surgeons, which is embodied in the Blue Book.

Right Hon. Lord Stanley,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) BENJ. C. C. PINE,
Governor.

ST. HELENA.

ST. HELENA.

No. 28.

No. 28.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HAY to the Right Honourable the SECRETARY
of STATE.

(No. 32.)

St. Helena, May 5, 1858.
(Received July 3, 1858.)

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the St. Helena Blue Book for 1857.

2. The returns of the past year are generally favourable, the number of the transient shipping having somewhat increased.

3. Dependent for its existence as a colony on the vessels calling at the port for supplies, the island must ordinarily experience from year to year no changes in material prosperity which are not referable to that source.

4. The revenue and expenditure each exceed those of the preceding year, the number of ships being, in 1856, 1,107, in 1857, 1,119.

5. The revenue for 1857 exceeds that of the previous year by 1,685*l.*, and amounts to 18,801*l.*; it is derived principally from port dues, under which head the returns show a sum of 15,145*l.*, and of this nearly one half, viz., 7,185*l.*, is derived from the duties on spirits, wine, and beer alone, the consumption of which articles (incidental to the nature of the passing traffic and population) supplies more than four tenths of the entire revenue of the island.

	£	s.	d.
Import duties on spirits, &c.	-	7,185	5 0
Licences to sell spirits, &c.	-	825	0 0
Total revenue from spirits, &c.	-	8,010	5 0

The import duties on all other articles amount only to 3,025*l.*

6. The principal charge on shipping is the tonnage due of one penny, the revenue from which, amounting to 2,591*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.*, is specially appropriated to the maintenance of the civil hospital and gaol, both of which institutions receive annually a large number of the seafaring class.

7. The remainder of the revenue collected at the custom house is more or less of the nature of payments for value received, such as warehouse rents, supply of water, &c.

8. The duties of customs, which were previous to 1853 principally ad valorem, were in that year entirely remodelled, and a system of dues established under the head of "wharfage," by which, with some few exceptions, every imported package was made liable (instead of an ad valorem rate) to a trifling fixed charge irrespective of the nature of its contents. St. HELENA.

9. This measure has worked most satisfactorily. The duties now imposed are especially adapted to the local circumstances. The insignificance of the charges on the importation of all the necessities of life entirely deprives them of the character of taxation, while the proceedings at the custom house are simplified, and commercial business facilitated.

10. The value of the imports and exports of the colony for the years 1856 and 1857 is—

	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1856	101,562	24,925
1857	132,354	35,139

11. The internal taxation is of small account, amounting to no more than 1,615*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.*

12. The entire inland revenue amounts to 3,656*l.*, of which the sum of 1,229*l.* is rent of Crown lands, and 526*l.* in the shape of miscellaneous receipts, such as fines and fees, postage, sales of property, &c. Of the actual taxation, viz. 1,615*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.*, more than one half, viz. 825*l.*, is derived from licences to sell spirits, &c.

13. The return of expenditure, amounting to 19,097*l.*, shows a slight increase under the heads of the militia for clothing and rations, and the civil hospital, on account of the large number of patients incidental to the increase of shipping. The principal item, however, is the sum of 2,400*l.*, paid to the colonial agent during the past year, in liquidation of the current debt for advances in England, in respect of which the payments from the colonial chest had previously fallen somewhat in arrear.

14. There are large demands for expenditure on public works which there are no funds at present to meet. The most prominent of these are the extension of the landing and enlargement of the wharf, and the improvement of the dwellings of the poor in James Town. The chief expenditure during the past year appears under the several heads of roads, supply of water for James Town and the shipping, repairs of public buildings, and drainage of the town. The waterworks, which have been completed during the year, are now capable of supplying 200 tons of water per diem to the shipping.

15. The improvement of the drainage of the town, which is progressing slowly, ought to be accompanied with the substitution of descent and wholesome dwellings for the wretched hovels in the back streets and immediate neighbourhood of the drains, where a certain class of the population have for years resided in a state of demoralizing dirt, if not in conscious misery. This work remains, however, suspended for want of means.

16. My attention has been of late especially directed to a want at this port to which I have pointed in previous correspondence, of the proper means and appliances for heaving down and repairing large vessels. This island being in the direct line of the passage homewards of all vessels from the east, and the port the only one they can make at all times and in all seasons, is resorted to by many vessels in distress, which are subjected, through want of the necessary appliances, to harassing delay and expenses.

17. An instance of this kind now exists in the harbour, where an English ship of 2,000 tons burden has been lying for three months, and although on several occasions assisted by Her Majesty's ships that chanced to call in, and every effort has been made for the purpose of fitting her for sea again, she is no further advanced towards refitting than when first she entered the harbour. Had there been a dock or slip she would ere this have left the port in a seaworthy condition.

18. It is no doubt the interest of the mercantile body in England to take the necessary steps to meet this want, to the importance of which the colonists are very much alive, and ready to afford every co-operation within their means. Without the countenance, however, of Her Majesty's Government, the undertaking is scarcely likely to assume a practicable shape.

19. The surface of the island, of which nearly two thirds are a barren waste, consists of 30,800 acres, which may be classified thus—

Pasture	-	-	-	-	-	7,652 acres
Fit for tillage	-	-	-	-	-	3,200 "
Forest, orchard, &c.	-	-	-	-	-	663 "
More or less barren	-	-	-	-	-	18,780 "

and of the land fit for tillage there are about 500 acres under cultivation.

20. The transient population is calculated at 30,000 per annum. The resident population, including 521 soldiers, cannot be said to amount to 6,000. No census has been

ST. HELENA. taken since 1851, when the number was 5,490. The returns of births and deaths have varied very much in proportion, and their comparative data cannot be depended on, in consequence of the registry of births not being compulsory. To meet this difficulty an ordinance is now in progress. A census will be taken in 1861, so as to obtain a decennial enumeration of the inhabitants.

21. With a population of less than 6,000 souls, it is obvious that the ready profits to be obtained from the investment of money or labour in the active traffic or even desultory vocations of a sea port, frequented by 1,119 ships in the course of the year, must leave little inducement (beyond the demands of the shipping for fresh provisions) to the devotion of capital of any kind to the more precarious as well as more laborious operations of agriculture, and the population of the town, compared with the rest of the island, is as 10 to 6. It is not, therefore, matter of surprise, that of the 3,200 acres of land fit for tillage, of which 1,600 are capable of producing wheat, only 500 acres are cultivated.

22. The best of the land now in cultivation belongs to the Crown, and is held by tenants of capital and intelligence, who, having enterprize, and means enough to try experiments, have proved that wheat, barley, and oats may be grown successfully, both as relates to the return of produce and its remunerative value.

23. The produce per acre varies from 20 to 25 bushels, and the price from 9s. to 15s. per bushel. The expense of cultivation I have not been able to ascertain; but I gather that, notwithstanding the very high wages and inferior labour in this island, the investment in corn-land, as far as it goes, promises to be highly profitable.

24. With a view to encourage the growth of wheat, a flour mill was erected, at the cost of the local government, in 1856. It was intended to be worked by cattle, but that being found impracticable it is proposed that steam power should as soon as possible be put in operation.

25. The wheat, of which there are upwards of 4,000 bushels ready for the mill, is grown principally at Longwood, which estate, leased from the Crown, is under enterprising and skilful management. The grain which thrives better than any other yet tried in the island is the bearded or summer wheat, a secondary kind, I believe. A portion is ground at a small private mill, and the flour, though not of a superior quality, makes wholesome bread, which sells well at a lower price than that made from imported flour.

26. I attach the more importance to this particular branch of local industry, in consequence of the prospect it affords of ultimate improvement in the condition of the natives.

27. The principal articles of consumption with the people of this island are fish and rice, which, while every other article, except wine, is enormously dear, are to be had in sufficient quantity to maintain life at a very low price.

28. The climate, not intensely hot as in other tropical climates, is sufficiently genial to promote appreciation of the "*dolce far niente*," the small cost of the bare means of subsistence attainable by a very few hours work at high wages, the commonest labourer never obtaining less than 1s. 6d. a day, and more generally from 2s. to 3s., and sometimes 4s. 6d., these combine naturally to produce a low physical as well as moral condition.

29. The successful production of wheat may probably lead to the investment of capital in land now laying more or less uncultivated, being for the most part in the hands of gentlemen in very much reduced if not involved circumstances. A fresh stimulus may be given to labour, and a higher order of physical comfort not only be attainable but become necessary, and with the improvement of their physical condition and industrial energies the moral character of the people will naturally progress.

30. The cultivable land in the island is amply sufficient to provide food of every kind, not only for the entire population, but to leave a considerable surplus to meet the demands of the shipping. The soil, to the extent I have named, is as rich on the average as any in the world; it produces now with ease, and is capable of producing in profusion, the vegetation of all parts of the world, from the sugar cane, coffee, banana, and mango, to the cabbage, potato, apple, and blackberry. The fir, the oak; and other valuable timber trees grow equally well with the trees peculiar to the climate.

31. The timber has never been extensively used; this, with most other branches of internal interest, having yielded to the absorbing attraction of the port and shipping; but it may probably be found that timber for many purposes, in common with other products hitherto imported from abroad, is to be obtained on the spot, at a sacrifice of the usual care and attention, but at a comparatively small cost, by making use of the natural advantages near at hand.

32. The pasture lands, stated at 7,652 acres, are open to great improvement and extension, a considerable quantity of what is now classified as waste land being capable of redemption, and of raising on the spot the amount of live stock now imported from

abroad, viz., about 2,250 head of sheep and 250 oxen per annum. The number of St. HELENA. horned cattle actually on the island is said to be 1,625, and of sheep 4,230; the number of tons of hay made on the island, 220.

33. The militia of the island, consisting of 340 men and 22 officers, is a very respectable force, maintained entirely at the expense of the colony. The annual expenditure is about 500*l.*, exclusive of clothing, which costs about 1,000*l.* every four years, making an annual average expense of 750*l.*

34. There is also a volunteer corps, which was formed during the late war in 1854, and is maintained entirely at the expense of the gentlemen composing it, numbering 40 in all, including officers, to whom great credit is due for the completeness with which they have carried out their loyal object.

35. There are several associations, in the shape of friendly or benefit societies, very respectably conducted. The total number of members is 1,393. There is an island society for the promotion of improvements in all local branches of industry. There are also a Church society and a benevolent society, both supported by private subscriptions. The name of the Church society is sufficiently indicative of its object. The benevolent is entirely devoted to schools, of which it supports four, the number benefiting by their tuition amounting to 257.

36. Religious instruction, as far as the number of clergy is concerned, is amply provided. There are five clergymen of the Church of England more or less supported by the colony, besides an assistant chaplain to the forces, a Roman Catholic clergyman, and a Baptist missionary.

37. The colonial chaplain, who is also archdeacon, is paid entirely by the colony. Two clergymen are similarly paid as schoolmasters, who act also with two others appointed by the bishop as assistants to the colonial chaplain, and receive in that capacity some addition to their stipends from other sources.

38. The funds from which the clergy are paid are contributed from various sources in the following proportions:—

	£
Colonial treasury - - -	770 per annum
Local Church society - - -	190 "
„ Private contributions - - -	50 "
„ Offertory - - -	60 "
„ Pew rents - - -	150 "
Total local funds - - -	1,220 "
Bishop of diocese - - -	130 "
Total - - -	1,350

39. There are two church edifices in the island at present, and funds have been raised towards the erection of two more, one of which is now in progress, but delayed for want of sufficient means; the other has not yet been commenced. There is also a baptist chapel, a well-built and well-attended edifice.

40. The returns under the head of education are so far satisfactory that they shew about 800 children under tuition, including those at the regimental and private schools, of which there is no return. Taking the entire population at something below 6,000, and the number of children between the ages of 5 and 12 to be 20 per cent., there are not less than 70 per cent. of the children under instruction.

41. I propose in the estimates for 1859 to include an additional provision for schools, so as to afford instruction to those now excluded, from want of sufficient room in the existing buildings, and of a proper number of qualified teachers.

42. I subjoin abstracts from the returns of convictions of all kinds during the year. Drunkenness and petty theft figure as the principal offences, there being only one case of a native convicted of grave crime. Of the 323 convictions before the magistrates, however, 191 are of natives, and of these 105 were for drunkenness, 16 for assaults, and 20 for petty theft, the latter a very prevailing characteristic of the people, who are generally otherwise, with the exception of the drunkenness and disorder incidental to the seaport, peaceful and well behaved.

43. Accompanying the Blue Book are the comparative statements of the estimated and actual revenue and expenditure of the island for the past year.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

The Right Hon. the Secretary of State,

&c.

&c.

&c.

St. Helena.

CLASSIFIED RETURN of PRISONERS in GAOL.

1857.

NATURE OF THE CRIME.	Male.	Female.	British.	Foreign.	Native.	TOTAL.
Assault - - - - -	9	2	4	—	7	11
Shooting with intent - - - - -	1	—	1	—	—	1
Stabbing with intent - - - - -	2	—	—	2	—	2
Breaking a warehouse - - - - -	2	—	—	—	2	2
Stealing - - - - -	16	4	2	—	18	20
Attempt at bestiality - - - - -	1	—	—	—	1	1
Vagrants - - - - -	3	5	—	—	8	8
Drunk and riotous - - - - -	12	11	5	—	18	23
Nonpayment of fine - - - - -	6	1	2	—	5	7
Misdemeanor - - - - -	3	—	1	2	—	3
Refusing to pay licence - - - - -	1	—	1	—	—	1
Malicious injury - - - - -	2	—	1	—	1	2
Refusing to proceed to sea - - - - -	32	—	32	—	—	32
Embezzlement, ships' stores - - - - -	1	—	1	—	—	1
Remanded cases - - - - -	10	—	2	2	6	10
Committed for trial - - - - -	6	—	2	1	3	6
Debt - - - - -	10	4	—	—	14	14
Refractory conduct in gaol - - - - -	1	—	1	—	—	1
Nonpayment, militia fine - - - - -	10	—	—	—	10	10
Courts-martial - - - - -	7	—	7	—	—	7
TOTAL - - - - -	135	27	62	7	93	162

ABSTRACT of CONVICTIONS before the MAGISTRATES.

1857.

OFFENCES.	Natives.	Africans.	Seamen.	Soldiers.	TOTAL.
Drunk, disorderly, &c. - - - - -	105	15	56	—	176
Assaults - - - - -	16	1	8	—	25
Embezzlement of cargo - - - - -	—	—	2	—	2
Refusing seaman's duty - - - - -	—	—	33	—	33
Petty thefts - - - - -	20	5	2	—	27
Leaving family chargeable - - - - -	8	—	—	—	8
Nonpayment, rates and taxes - - - - -	21	—	—	—	21
Breach of game laws - - - - -	1	—	—	—	1
Cruelty to animals - - - - -	1	—	—	—	1
Misconduct as servants - - - - -	2	—	—	—	2
Vagrants - - - - -	5	2	—	—	7
Malicious trespass - - - - -	2	1	—	—	3
Refractory conduct in gaol - - - - -	—	2	—	1	3
Unlicensed sale of wine - - - - -	3	—	—	—	3
Unlicensed attorney - - - - -	1	—	—	—	1
<i>Committed for Trial:—</i>					
Larceny - - - - -	5	1	—	1	7
Unnatural crime - - - - -	1	—	1	—	2
Unlawfully stabbing - - - - -	—	—	1	—	1
TOTAL - - - - -	191	27	103	2	323

HUD. R. JANISCH.
P. Magistrate.

1857.

ST. HELENA.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the ESTIMATED REVENUE of the ISLAND of SAINT HELENA for the Year 1857, and the REVENUE received in that Year, as shown by the ACCOUNTS made up from 1st January to 31st December.

HEADS OF RECEIPTS.	Estimated Revenue.	Revenue received.	Decreased Receipts.	Increased Receipts.	Reference to Remarks.
<i>Customs :</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	
Imports - - - - -	7,000 0 0	7,185 0 0	—	185 5 0	
Wharfage - - - - -	2,150 0 0	3,025 0 3	—	875 0 3	
Tonnage - - - - -	2,000 0 0	2,591 12 2	—	591 12 2	
Fees - - - - -	550 0 0	658 10 0	—	108 10 0	
Warehouse Rent - - - - -	300 0 0	192 2 7	107 17 5	—	
Permits - - - - -	60 0 0	73 5 0	—	13 5 0	
Water - - - - -	900 0 0	1,285 14 0	—	385 14 0	
Craneage - - - - -	40 0 0	133 15 8	—	93 15 8	
	13,000 0 0	15,145 4 8	107 17 5	2,253 2 1	1
<i>Land Sales :</i>					
Commutation of Rents.	—	—	—	—	
<i>Land Revenue :</i>					
Rents of Houses and Lands - - -	1,200 0 0	1,229 9 7	—	29 9 7	
<i>Rents exclusive of Lands.</i>	—	—	—	—	
<i>Auction Duties :</i>					
Per-centage on Sales by Auction -	200 0 0	301 7 10	—	101 7 10	2
<i>Licences :</i>					
Wine and Spirit - - - - -	550 0 0	825 0 0	—	275 0 0	
Coffee and Ginger Beer - - - - -	65 0 0	41 0 0	24 0 0	—	
Game - - - - -	35 0 0	55 0 0	—	20 0 0	
Boats - - - - -	300 0 0	300 0 0	—	—	
Attorneys - - - - -	15 0 0	10 0 0	5 0 0	—	
Auctioneers - - - - -	10 0 0	25 0 0	—	15 0 0	
Notaries - - - - -	5 0 0	5 0 0	—	—	
Billiard Table - - - - -	20 0 0	—	20 0 0	—	
	1,000 0 0	1,261 0 0	49 0 0	310 0 0	3
<i>Assessed Taxes :</i>					
Carriages, Carts, Horses, &c. &c. -	320 0 0	339 0 0	—	19 0 0	
<i>Post Office :</i>					
Postage - - - - -	300 0 0	127 12 5	172 7 7	—	4
<i>Fines, Forfeitures, and Fees of Courts :</i>					
Judicial - - - - -	50 0 0	42 8 6	7 11 6	—	
Police - - - - -	100 0 0	38 12 6	61 7 6	—	
Militia - - - - -	10 0 0	8 10 0	1 10 0	—	
<i>Fees of Office - - - - -</i>	15 0 0	26 16 6	—	11 16 6	
<i>Sale of Government Property :</i>					
Medicines - - - - -	5 0 0	31 13 7	—	26 13 7	
Stores - - - - -	5 0 0	16 17 6	—	11 17 6	
Landed Property - - - - -	—	50 0 0	—	50 0 0	
<i>Reimbursements in aid of Expenses, &c. :</i>					
Ration Stoppages from Soldiers in Gaol -	30 0 0	15 17 6	14 2 6	—	
Work done in Gaol - - - - -	10 0 0	27 3 6	—	17 3 6	
Hospital Stoppages - - - - -	100 0 0	138 7 6	—	38 7 6	
Printing done - - - - -	10 0 0	—	10 0 0	—	
<i>Miscellaneous Receipts :</i>					
Over Payments recovered - - - - -	5 0 0	—	5 0 0	—	
<i>Special Receipts :</i>					
Advances on a/c of Board of Trade -	—	334 9 0	—	334 9 0	5
Col. Surgeon's Commission Fee on } Appointment - - - - - }	—	1 10 0	—	1 10 0	
	16,360 0 0	19,136 0 7	428 16 6	3,204 17 1	
(Not including Widows' and Orphans' Fund)				Deduct Decrease	428 16 6
				Nett Increase £	2,776 0 7

Saint Helena Audit Office, }
16th January 1858.

R. C. PENNELL,
Auditor.

REMARKS :

1. Customs increased receipts caused by general increase of trade.
2. Increase of sales.
3. Larger number of licences issued.
4. A further sum of 105*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.* payable in England not included in the receipts.
5. Advances are not included in the estimate.

St. HELENA.

1857.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE of the ISLAND of SAINT HELENA for the Year 1857, and the ACTUAL EXPENDITURE of the Year as taken from the Accounts made up from 1st January to the 31st December.

HEADS OF EXPENDITURE.	Estimated Expenditure.	Actual Expenditure.	Decrease Expenditure.	Increase Expenditure.	Reference to Remarks.
<i>Civil Establishment :</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	
Governor - - - - -	2,078 0 0	2,080 0 0	—	2 0 0	
Col. Secretary - - - - -	1,086 15 0	1,095 11 10	—	8 16 10	
Treasurer - - - - -	565 0 0	418 18 10	146 1 2	—	1
Auditor - - - - -	163 10 0	162 0 0	1 10 0	—	
Surveyor and Civil Engineer - - - - -	1,189 14 2	1,218 7 2	—	28 13 0	2
Collector of Customs - - - - -	1,427 4 2	1,430 9 2	—	3 5 0	
Post Master - - - - -	130 0 0	130 0 0	—	—	
<i>Judicial Establishment :</i>					
Supreme Court - - - - -	1,295 0 0	1,157 0 10	137 19 2	—	3
Summary Court - - - - -	1,180 12 6	1,217 12 8	—	37 0 2	4
Ecclesiastical Establishment - - - - -	751 1 0	718 9 8	—	3 8 8	
Education - - - - -	530 0 0	490 0 0	40 0 0	—	5
Medical - - - - -	898 10 0	1,031 15 4½	—	133 5 4½	6
Gaol - - - - -	213 18 0	268 11 4	—	54 13 4	7
Militia - - - - -	405 0 7	623 8 8½	—	218 8 1½	8
Pensions - - - - -	721 14 7	399 2 6	322 12 1	—	9
Revenue services, exclusive of Establishment - - - - -	16 0 0	16 19 0	—	0 19 0	
Administration of Justice - - - - -	80 0 0	74 5 6	5 14 6	—	
Ecclesiastical - - - - -	—	—	—	—	
Charitable Allowances - - - - -	—	—	—	—	
Education, exclusive of Establishment - - - - -	—	—	—	—	
Hospitals - - - - -	800 0 0	1,199 10 1½	—	399 10 1½	10
Police and Gaols - - - - -	415 0 0	393 0 4	21 19 8	—	
Rent - - - - -	49 10 9	49 10 9	—	—	
Transport - - - - -	—	—	—	—	
Conveyance of Mails - - - - -	2 10 0	—	2 10 0	—	
Works and Buildings - - - - -	1,039 11 0	1,332 6 0½	—	292 15 0½	11
Roads, Streets, and Bridges - - - - -	600 0 0	442 13 3	157 6 9	—	12
Miscellaneous Services - - - - -	—	—	—	—	
Interest - - - - -	—	—	—	—	
Drawbacks and refund of Duties - - - - -	5 0 0	87 19 9	—	82 19 9	
Special Disbursements - - - - -	140 0 0	3,293 15 8	—	3,153 15 8	13
	15,747 11 9	19,331 8 6	835 13 4	4,419 10 1	
(Not including Widows' and Orphans' Fund)				Deduct Decrease	835 13 4
				Net Increase £	3,583 16 9

Saint Helena Audit Office, }
16th January 1858. }

R. C. PENNELL,
Auditor.

REMARKS:

1. Treasurer's half pay for a portion of the year drawn in England.
2. Half pay of Clerk of Works drawn on his return from leave of absence.
3. Queen's Advocate's half-pay drawn in England.
4. The temporary expense of an extra policeman.
5. The allowance for books and stationery expended in England.
6. Full salary issued to Colonial Surgeon on the confirmation of his appointment from 25th July 1855.
7. Keepers' salary transferred from supreme department to sheriff's.
8. Altering clothing and drill of recruits.
9. Portion of pensions drawn in England.
10. Increase of patients.
11. Drainage works in the town commenced.
12. Roads. The expenditure of the whole sum not found necessary.
13. Special disbursements include remittances made to Agent General, 2,400*l.*; payment to Royal Engineers for enlargement of new Custom House, 384*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.*; advance to Board of Trade, 220*l.*; purchase of Hull of a Slaver, 170*l.* 18*s.*

CAPE.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

No. 29

No. 29.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor Sir G. GREY to Right Hon. Sir E. B. LYTTON,
Bart.

(No. 42.)

Cape Town, March 16, 1859.

(Received May 2, 1859.)

SIR,

IN compliance with the standing instructions of your department, I have the honour herewith to transmit the Blue Book for this colony for the year 1857.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) G. GREY.

NATAL.

NATAL.

No. 30.

No. 30.

COPY of DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor SCOTT to the Right Hon.
H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 66.)

Government House, Natal,
October 15, 1858.

(Received December 30, 1858.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of the Colony for the past year, 1857. I regret that its transmission should have been delayed until this late period of the year; but I am informed by those on whom its compilation devolves, that, owing to our scattered agricultural population, great difficulty is found in collecting the necessary data, and that the returns made by the various District Officers are frequently imperfect and erroneous, and have to be returned for correction. I trust the arrangements the Colonial Secretary is now making will remove these defects, and also supply fuller and more satisfactory statistics than those hitherto transmitted.

2. Natal is too young in years, and its industrial population too small in number, to obtain at present any such marked yearly progress as largely to change the various annual returns composing the Blue Book; but comparing the present with former years, and estimating the changes shown by the status of the Colony, it will be seen that, both in its revenue and trade, Natal is yearly advancing.

3. The revenue given in the Blue Book is 45,733*l.*, and an increase of 9,636*l.* over that of the previous year is given by the comparative statement. This, however, if uncorrected, would lead to a wrong inference of the progress of the Colony in this respect. The revenue of each year, exhibited in the Blue Books, is swollen by items of account which are not legitimate sources of revenue. The amount of revenue really collected is 40,021*l.*, and this, again, is accidentally increased by a sum of 1,023*l.*, being arrear quitrents for former years, and by a further amount of 3,163*l.* unexpectedly obtained under the head of Fines.

4. When duly corrected, it is found that the revenue of the past year, compared with the previous year, gives an increase of 6,368*l.* only; but this far exceeds the comparative increase of any former year. This augmentation is found chiefly under the heads of

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Customs, Transfer Dues, Stamps, and Postage ; the Customs alone giving an increase of 4,385*l.*, altogether due to an improved commerce, as will be seen by the following Table, which exhibits the value of the imports and exports for the last three years, and also the tonnage of vessels entered inwards during the same periods.

		1855.	1856.	1857.
Imports	- - -	£ 86,551	£ 102,512	£ 184,549
Exports	- - -	„ 52,073	“ 56,562	„ 82,496
Tonnage	- - -	3,696	5,337	8,117

5. The statements of expenditure for 1856 do not appear to me to offer any exceptional features calling for explanation. The expenditure, it will be observed, has fallen within the revenue ; but for many years to come the expenditure will keep pace with whatever amount of revenue may be collected. The Colony at present possesses no public buildings, the gaols are scarcely worthy of the name, while the necessity of opening up the country by roads is yearly pressing itself upon our attention. The improvement of the harbour would also annually absorb a large sum, were the Colony in a position to carry on so extensive a work vigorously, and in proportion to the important bearing it has upon the commerce of the country.

6. The most important event of the past year in the history of Natal was the bringing into operation the Charter granted by Her Majesty, by which it was erected into a separate Colony, and had conferred upon it a popular Representative Legislature. Prior to this Charter Natal was designated a district, and bore a certain connexion with the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope, although it possessed a separate Executive and Legislative Council. The former Legislative Council was composed of certain Government officers nominated by the Crown ; the present Council is formed of four official nominees, and of twelve members elected by the people. Every person of legal age, except aliens and others usually disqualified, possessing immoveable property of the value of 50*l.*, or who rents any such property of the yearly rental of 10*l.*, is qualified to vote, and is also eligible as a Member of the Council. The Charter makes no exception ; the Zulu Kafir, if qualified by property, is, equally with the Dutch Boer and the English colonist, entitled to the privileges of voting and election. The present population of the Colony consists of about 4,000 Europeans, 4,000 Boers, and 130,000 Kafirs. The Boers do not enter warmly into the new form of government ; in the northern part of the Colony they almost wholly refrained from voting, and the two members elected for the district of Klip River were returned by very few voices. I doubt whether the Boers will ever largely exercise the privileges conferred. The Kafirs have not yet learned the importance of possessing landed property, and few are qualified to vote. Hitherto their great ambition has been to possess herds of cattle ; but the long prevalence of lung sickness and other causes are gradually inducing a change. The most active and prominent of the natives are becoming sensible of the value and importance of other species of property. As a race of people, they are intelligent, great observers, and politicians in connexion with their own customs and form of government, and quick in learning, when they have been induced to enter the schools. A very small advance in the present social position of our native population would give them a numerical superiority of votes over the white inhabitants. At no distant future, therefore, a question involving most interesting considerations is not unlikely to arise in Natal. The mass of the white population will seek its solution, no doubt, in an arbitrary prohibition of electoral rights to the native, and already the expediency of such a measure is not unmooted.

7. I subjoin a list of the Laws passed by the Legislature during its first session.

No. 1. To secure freedom of speech and debates or proceedings in the Legislative Council, and to give summary protection to persons employed in the publication of its papers.

No. 2. For repealing the Local Councils Ordinance.

No. 3. For regulating the dealing in gunpowder.

No. 4. For giving validity to contracts of service made out of the Colony.

No. 5. For applying a sum not exceeding 1,375*l.*, to be charged upon the revenue of the current year, for the conveyance of mails between the Colony of Natal and the Cape of Good Hope.

No. 6. For regulating the taxation on native huts.

No. 7. For making further provision for the service of the year 1857.

No. 8. For imposing a tax on unoccupied lands.

No. 9. For the registration and sale of fire-arms.

No. 10. For the better administration of justice within the Colony of Natal.

The two following Bills were passed by the Council, and reserved by me for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure.

1. For raising a loan of 100,000*l*.

2. For securing the better protection and peace of the Colony.

8. Of the above-mentioned Laws, Nos. 4. and 8. were disallowed. Nos. 3. and 9., bearing upon the dealing in gunpowder, and the possession and sale of fire-arms, were introduced with the view of checking, as far as possible, the indiscriminate possession of these articles by natives.

9. Prior to the passing of No. 10., for the better administration of justice, there was only one court, presided over by a recorder, with, originally, an appeal to the Supreme Court of the Cape of Good Hope. The changes which from time to time took place in the political relations of this and the Cape Colony had removed this appeal, and there remained only an appeal to Her Majesty in Council. The present Law appoints a chief justice and two puisne judges, and a supreme court and circuit courts. The increase made by this Law in the number of judges may, perhaps, be disproportionate and costly, compared with the number of the population and the amount of legal business; but, otherwise regarded, I consider the changes made as highly beneficial; the administration of the higher branches of the law now holds that dignified position which such institutions should ever have.

10. The Bill for raising a loan of 100,000*l*. was passed with the intention of raising by debentures a sum of money for the construction of public works, and chiefly for the purpose of improving the harbour. It still awaits the final decision of the Imperial Government.

The Bill for securing the better protection and peace of the Colony had reference to the natives; its provisions were restrictive of their liberties, and, compared with the enlightened and philanthropic policy of the present day, it was a retrograde step in legislation. It has received Her Majesty's disallowance.

11. During the first years of the settlement of Natal, the attention of the colonists was directed to whatever might prove profitable. The breeding of cattle and similar pursuits, occupied the chief point of view, and coal, copper, and the possibility of finding gold were not passed over. Experiments on the fitness of the climate and soil for various natural products were made, until Natal obtained the nickname of the "Colony of samples." It has now taken a broader stand, and its true resources can scarcely now appear doubtful.

12. I have personally visited and examined the outcrops of coal found in many parts of the Colony. It is of a very inferior kind; only of very local use, and not likely to prove of any commercial value. The broken geological character of the country in which it is situated seems to me to exclude any hope of its being found except in broken masses or strata, and even, therefore, if it were of better quality, and more accessible than it is, I should not consider it of much importance. I also made an examination of some small workings where copper had been found. This is more valueless than the coal. Indeed, with the exception of the more rugged portions of the Colony on the Drakensberg Mountains, of which little is known, there are few indications of valuable minerals ever being found in the Colony; but this apparent meagreness of Natal in mineral wealth is more than compensated for by its proved fitness for producing valuable staple articles of export.

13. The climate of the Colony is already sufficiently known to require a lengthened description. I may, however, shortly state that it embraces the semi-tropical and the temperate. On the coast the winter scarce shows itself on the evergreen foliage; inland the different seasons are defined and marked; and in the more northern parts of the Colony, and especially near the Drakensberg Mountains, snow yearly covers the ground. The seasons, compared one year with the other, seem to differ much; the rains are, generally speaking, periodical, although less so than in inter-tropical climates, and droughts, such as are common in many other parts of South Africa, are here unknown. It has its hot winds and other drawbacks, from which no climate can be expected to be

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wholly free, but its general healthiness is remarkable. Natal has also another valuable feature, distinguishing it from other South African countries, that of being well watered by numerous streams, which afford facilities for irrigation. The range of natural products is, as might be expected from its varied climate, singularly great, including almost all the fruits and vegetables of Europe, and many of those of the tropics.

14. Among the vegetable productions, the sugar cane is now receiving the greatest attention. Its cultivation is confined to the warmer districts bordering the sea. At an early period, when Natal was first visited by white men, a small species of sugar cane, called "imphy," was grown by the natives, the sweet juice it yielded being considered a luxury; it is apparently indigenous. An enterprising colonist, Mr. Morewood, observing the freedom with which this native sugar-cane grew, was induced to obtain from the Mauritius, I believe, a few plants of the true sugar-cane. This he planted on his farm near the coast, where it grew with remarkable vigour. Anxious to test its saccharine quality, he, by a rude expedient, crushed a portion, and boiling the juice in an ordinary cooking-pot, obtained a large per-centage of sugar, and considering the imperfect means used in its manufacture of excellent quality. Thus stimulated by so successful an experiment, he planted the cane more largely, erected a rough crushing mill, and formed a "batterie" out of soap boilers, and by this means he, in 1852, produced and sold the first sugar manufactured in Natal. Gradually others turned their attention to this product; but as none possessed the large amount of capital required to establish even a small sugar-farm and factory, its cultivation was for some time confined in extent, and scarcely exceeded what might be still considered experiments. Large profits, proportionate to the scale of the quantity of sugar produced, were obtained. This enabled each cultivator yearly to extend his operations; and at the present time, as will be gathered from the returns in the Blue Book, there are fourteen sugar-mills erected, upwards of 1,800 acres of land planted with cane, and an almost equal acreage in preparation. I am unable to state with accuracy the quantity of sugar manufactured in the past year, but it is estimated that in the present year about 600 acres of cane will be crushed, which, calculated at the low rate of one and a half tons per acre, will yield 900 tons of sugar. More capital is now being embarked, and greater skill introduced in the growth and manufacture of this important export. The saccharometer indicates a quality of juice equal to that obtained from the canes of the Mauritius or West Indies, and the yield per acre is equally satisfactory. The first canes were grown on the low flat patches of land only, but recently they have been planted on higher ground, and on the slopes of the hills, and although this season has been unusually dry, they are said to grow as well and be equally as productive in sugar as those on the lower grounds. This is of great importance, since, if need be, it opens up for the cultivation of sugar-cane all the lands bordering the sea coast, from the Tugela to the Umimkulu, a distance of about 120 miles. The coast, from its unindented character, does not, however, offer many facilities for shipment, and at present the sugar is brought to the port by land carriage. The Umzinto Sugar Company's plantation, now being formed, is distant about sixty miles from the port.

15. I have thus slightly sketched the history of the sugar cultivation and its probable future progress, being of opinion that it is one of the resources of the Colony, which, when fully developed and extended, will have an important bearing on its prosperity.

16. A few plantations of coffee have also been formed, and those engaged in its cultivation speak favourably of its prospects. The trees are still young, and further time is necessary to pronounce a decided opinion on the capabilities of Natal for this article of export. The small quantity already produced has been declared by competent judges to be of most excellent quality.

17. Arrowroot is also grown and manufactured; at present nearly 400 acres are cultivated for this purpose. Should it prove as profitable as hitherto, I am informed that it will be rapidly extended.

18. Indigo is an indigenous plant, and found in many varieties scattered over a large tract of the Colony. A manufactory was established at Pine Town, situated about 14 miles from the port, but circumstances, wholly unconnected with any question of its manufacture, have hitherto prevented its being made in marketable quantity, or beyond a few favourable samples.

19. Ginger is also cultivated to a limited extent; and, indeed, so far as at present tested, there appears no reasons for doubting that most other minor semi-tropical products will be found suitable for the warm districts bordering the sea-coast of Natal.

20. An important question, the question of labour, naturally connects itself with the cultivation of tropical products, and in this respect Natal is favourably placed. A question of introducing Coolies from India has been raised, and arrangements have so far been made as to obtain the consent of the East India Company to the project, under certain conditions; but I am now disposed to believe that it will never be acted upon. In the Colony itself we have a native population of nigh 130,000, physically strong and intelligent; in both these respects superior to the Coolies of India. The whole of the common labour of the Colony is at present done by the native Zulu, and great numbers are therefore in the daily employ of the white colonists. There is, however, a strong disinclination on the part of the Kafir to labour continuously throughout the year; even with domestic servants it is the practice, after six or eight months' service, to return to their kraals, and then again, after a short interval, return to service for another period. This practice gives a degree of uncertainty to their labour; but can it be expected that a people, who, until, comparatively speaking, a very recent date, dwelt in almost entire idleness, should at once change their habits, and become as steady in their labour as those who have laboured from childhood and from necessity? Every year a change is perceptible in the Kafir; greater numbers come forth to seek labour; a strong love of money now obtains amongst them; and when it is considered that the native population exceeds one hundred and thirty thousand, there is in my mind little doubt that Natal has within itself an amount of invaluable labour, which, if dealt with judiciously, will in progress of time be all-sufficient for the full development of every resource of the Colony. During a late visit I made to the greater part of the sugar estates, I found the Kafirs were voluntarily seeking for employment thereon, and that numbers were continually refused; in short, it is now evident, and acknowledged by the colonists generally, that everything depends upon the employer himself. If skilful in the management of the Kafir, he can obtain any amount of labourers; but if, on the other hand, he acquires, as is not uncommon, a bad name amongst the natives, they cannot be induced to enter his service. The character of each master is soon known, and spread from Kafir to Kafir until it is known to all.

21. Amongst the other vegetable products for which the climate of this Colony seems adapted, I must not overlook cotton. It has been grown occasionally in small patches by different individuals and in various localities, almost since the first settlement of the Colony, and a few years back a company began to enter upon its cultivation largely; but unfortunately the firm having become bankrupt, from other causes, however, it was abandoned. In all cases the cotton plant has been found to thrive well; that which is an annual elsewhere here becomes apparently perennial, and the staple is pronounced to be good. I am now making arrangements for obtaining its cultivation amongst the natives. There are many difficulties to be overcome in this experiment; but any scheme pointing at such great advantages as would result from this Colony becoming, through the instrumentality of its numerous natives, a cotton-growing country, and free from the blot of slavery, merits every exertion.

22. The remarks I have made above on the products of Natal likely to form staple articles of export have reference chiefly to the lower and warmer districts of the Colony; the northern parts are not so marked in progress, but the ultimate part which this portion will take seems to assume a more fixed aspect. It is chiefly inhabited by Boers, whose ambition was to possess farms of vast size, and pasture large herds of horned cattle, the cultivation of the soil beyond their own immediate wants being of secondary importance. The Colony, from its absence of forest, and its boundless tracts of grass-covered surface, was well suited for grazing purposes, and large herds of horned cattle, owned by the Boer, the Kafir, and by many colonists, roamed and fattened, with little attention required from the owners. These vast droves have now become much reduced in number by the prevalence of a malady called lung sickness, and which still exists, though in a subdued form. This has undoubtedly been a calamity falling heavily upon individuals, but in its general bearing upon the Colony it will most probably prove beneficial. It has undoubtedly been the means of rousing the attention of those who might otherwise have remained indolent graziers to the value of other agricultural pursuits; and it has not been without value also upon the native tribes, by modifying their inveterate love of cattle, and giving a taste for other kind of riches.

23. The attention of the Boers and other farming colonists is now directed to sheep. Their introduction into the Colony is slow, partly from the difficulty of obtaining them in large numbers from the Orange Free State, but chiefly from the want of capitalists amongst the farmers. The reports made to me by the different Resident Magistrates of Counties on the progress of sheep farming are very satisfactory. The rankness of the grass, which was considered as likely to prove an insuperable obstacle to this country

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becoming a wool-producing colony, does not appear so detrimental as was anticipated; and it is found by grazing that the grass changes, and becomes gradually more suited to sheep. There appears, therefore, every reason to expect that the northern portions of Natal may ultimately yield large quantities of wool, an export as valuable as that of sugar and the other products which promise to be the staple exports of the lower districts. By the agricultural returns of the Blue Book it appears that in 1855 there were about 10,000 sheep, in 1856, 18,000, and in the past year 37,000; but these returns are in no respect reliable.

24. As amongst the resources open to the inland portion of the Colony, I may also mention the breeding of horses. These command a high price in the Mauritius and India, and are now being much improved by the recent introduction into the Colony of superior breeds.

25. The climate and soil are also well suited for the cultivation of most farming products. Wheat and other cereals may be grown to any desirable extent. Wheat is somewhat subject to "rust," but this, I am informed, is due chiefly, if not entirely, to the uncultivated condition of the soil, and therefore no serious drawback. Oats, now grown solely for food for horses, are so rapid in their growth that three crops on the same ground within one year are commonly and readily obtained. Hemp is indigenous, and might, as well as flax, be cultivated to any extent.

26. I have in this Report entered more fully into agricultural details than is perhaps usual in the Reports accompanying the Blue Books of Colonies; but as much speculation has frequently been indulged in with regard to the real capabilities of Natal, I have thought my First Report on the Colony would not be an inappropriate occasion to exhibit under one view what may now more conclusively than hitherto be considered the actual and prospective resources of the Colony, although in doing this I have necessarily touched upon what has already in other communications to Her Majesty's Government been spoken of.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.
&c. &c. &c.

I am, &c.
(Signed) J. SCOTT

PART IV.

AUSTRALIAN COLONIES AND NEW ZEALAND.

PART IV.—AUSTRALIAN COLONIES AND NEW ZEALAND.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

NEW SOUTH
WALES.

No. 31.

No. 31.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor Sir W. DENISON to the Right Hon.
Sir E. BULWER LYTTON, Bart.

(No. 139.)

Government House, Sydney,
September 30, 1858.

(Received December 20, 1858.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book for the year 1857. The returns comprised in this book increase in bulk annually; and I would again submit to Her Majesty's Government the propriety of omitting from the Blue Books of the different Colonies which are placed under a system of responsible government the nominal list of officers composing what is termed the Civil Establishment of the Colony, which occupies upwards of 200 pages of the book, and occupies very unnecessarily the time of the clerks employed upon the work. I say very unnecessarily, for as the appointment to all the situations of emolument under Government is now transferred to the local Government, the changes of office or of emolument cannot be of sufficient interest at home to justify the employment of so much clerical labour in preparing these returns.

2. I trust to be able to place for the future the preparation of the Blue Book in the hands of the Registrar General; and I have every reason to hope that the result will be a great increase in the accuracy and value of the returns submitted, and a gradual amalgamation of them, so as to bring in a tabular state before the Government, not only facts, but the relation which these facts have to each other.

3. I propose in my comments and remarks upon the contents of this book to begin, as I did last year, with the population returns. In page 807 will be found an estimate of the population on the 31st December 1857, deduced from the census returns of 1856, by adding to the number therein shown the increase from births and immigration, and deducting the decrease from deaths and emigration. The result gives as the population of New South Wales on the 31st December 1857, 305,487, showing a net increase in the course of the year of 18,614, or 6.48 per cent.

4. On reference to the Comparative Statement of Revenue, page 126 et seq., it will be seen that the total receipts for the year, exclusive of money borrowed for public works, exceed those of 1856 by 54,826*l.*, or about 4.8 per cent., an increase less than that which is fairly due to the augmentation of the population. No fair deduction, however, can be made from a comparison of totals. If we refer to the revenue derived from the Customs we shall find that there is under this head an increase of 61,703*l.*, or about 13 per cent., while the produce of the duty upon spirits distilled in the Colony has increased from 51,074*l.* to 63,477*l.*, or 24 per cent. The Customs revenue, which is raised upon articles, many of which, as spirits, beer, tobacco, may be considered articles of luxury, is a fair test of the prosperity of the people; and as we find that this has increased in a ratio double that of the addition made to the population, it is a fair inference that the means at the disposal of the population for the purchase of dutiable articles have been in excess of what they were during the previous year. The revenue derived from postage is, perhaps, another fair test of the progress of the people; and we find that the increase during the year 1857 has been at the rate of 23 per cent. on the revenue from this source in 1856.

5. The falling off in the land revenue I attribute to local and temporary causes, similar to those to which I alluded in my despatch last year. The Government not having been able to settle definitively the many questions relative to the purchase and rental of land, those who have no immediate or special object which may induce them to purchase land are contented to wait until they see what effect the expected measures of the Government may have upon the price of the article they are desirous of purchasing.

6. Upon reference to the Comparative Yearly Statement of Expenditure for the years 1856 and 1857, at pages 136 et seq., it will be seen that, exclusive of the outlay upon works, the cost of which is provided for by loan, the outlay during 1857 falls short of that

of 1856 by 41,470*l.*, or about 3·6 per cent. There has been a general decrease in the establishments, but more especially in the expenditure on account of the police and the Crown lands. Comparing the receipts of 1857 with the expenditure during the same period there would appear to be an available balance of 73,714*l.*, which has been applied to diminish the deficit of former years. The money borrowed during 1857 must not be taken as the measure of the absolute progress of the public works of the Colony. These, especially the railways, have been progressing steadily, though, owing to the pressure on the money market during the early part of the year, it was not considered desirable to press colonial securities upon a falling market. The line to the southward from Sydney has been extended, while that to the northward from Newcastle has been perfected, and preparations have been made to push extensions simultaneously to the southward, westward, and northward.

In a country like New South Wales, over which, as the population is scantily sprinkled, the lines of communication must extend to a great length, it is evident that these should combine as far as possible these three elements,—cheapness of construction, cheapness of maintenance, and easiness and consequent cheapness of transport. Of these three elements the railway combines the two latter, and with proper care and management the cost of construction need not be so enhanced as to require in the shape of interest upon the capital expended so large a sum as to press unduly upon the charges for transport. The cost of maintaining a turnpike road in any decent state of repair in this country, owing to the absence of proper material and the high rate of wages, is very great, and the cost of transporting produce and stores upon such a road, were it in its best state, is such as to render the transport of the bulkier descriptions of produce for any distance so unprofitable as to be a practical impossibility. By the construction of cheap railways, to be worked, until the traffic increases largely, by horse power, not only would the settlers have every facility which they would require afforded them, but, as the present charge for transport averages 2*s.* per ton per mile, and the railway charge would not exceed 6*d.* per ton per mile, 75 per cent. of the amount now expended unproductively upon the transport of produce and stores would be left in the pockets of producers, to be expended productively.

7. On the subject of education I have nothing to add to what I remarked last year. No steps have as yet been taken to introduce a general scheme, the want of which is felt more and more every day by those who look forward to the future of the Colony as dependent in great measure upon the character and intelligence of the inhabitants. I trust, however, before long, to be able to make a more satisfactory report upon this subject.

8. The agricultural returns are, as I have said, not to be implicitly depended on. They may be trusted, however, in comparisons of one year with another; but it would be unwise to speculate upon the probable amount of wheat or flour required from the data shown in the tables. It would seem that during the last year there has been a reduction in the quantity of land sown with wheat to the extent of 17,929 acres, or nearly 17 per cent., while there has been a falling off in the crop to the extent of 468,000 bushels, or 26 per cent., showing the effect of the season upon the crop, which did not exceed 14½ bushels to the acre. There has been an increase in the quantity of land under maize to the extent of 10,810 acres, or 33 per cent., while the crop has not increased more than 3 per cent. This was due to the heavy floods which swept over the low land planted with maize, destroying much of the early crop. There is a tendency in all the districts to the north of Sydney to substitute maize for wheat, as being a more productive crop; but should the means of railway communication be opened into the interior much of the high land to the north as well as the south will become available for the growth of wheat, and the Colony may then become independent of other countries for its supplies of bread.

9. The return of live stock in page 816 shows a full average increase in horses, cattle, and sheep. On reference, however, to the revenue derived from the assessment on stock, it would seem that there has been a falling off in the amount received from cattle of about ½ per cent., and from sheep of 4½ per cent. I am not in a position to account for this discrepancy. Whether, however, the returns of the quantity of sheep and cattle in the table are to be depended on, or whether the inference from the falling off in the assessment be correct, one fact is clear, that if the increase in the population continues to be so far in advance of the increase of stock, a time must come when the question of the amount of the supply of animal food will cause much embarrassment. It must not be forgotten that in discussing this question the two Colonies of New South Wales and Victoria must be considered together. The increase of population is far more rapid in the latter Colony than in the former; and, owing to local circumstances, the increase of stock is, I believe, there far

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less than in New South Wales. On reference to the Report of the Registrar General of Victoria, I find it therein stated that at the end of March 1858 there were in that Colony 614,537 head of cattle and 4,766,022 sheep, and that the increase over the returns for 1856 was 80,424 cattle and 188,150 sheep. The increase of cattle would appear to be very large, being 13 per cent. in fifteen months; but this is accounted for by a remark, that a portion of these were supplied from New South Wales. The quantity of sheep is stated to be far less than it was in 1851, proving that as men increase the demand for animal food and for occupation of land for other than pastoral purposes must necessarily reduce the amount of stock of that description. From the returns of both the Colonies it would appear that there were in all, at the beginning of 1858, 2,763,201 head of cattle, 12,905,184 sheep, to supply food to a population of 775,124 souls. Now, cattle may be killed off at the rate of about one in six annually, allowing for an increase to the extent of six per cent.; in the same way a similar proportion of the sheep may be handed over to the butcher, and yet allow of an increase of five per cent.

At present, then, 460,533 head of cattle may be slaughtered, and yet the number would increase, notwithstanding, to the extent of 165,792, and out of 12,905,184 sheep 2,150,864 may be killed, and yet an addition would be made to the flock to the extent of 645,259. Now, 460,533 cattle, at an average weight of 600 lbs., will yield 276,319,800 lbs. of meat, and 2,150,864 sheep, at an average rate of 50 lbs., will yield 107,543,200 lbs., making a total of 383,860,000 lbs. to feed 775,124 people during a year, which will give somewhat less than 500 lbs., or about $9\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. for each individual per week, the ordinary ration allowed to labouring men ranging from 10 to 12 lbs. per week. The supply, then, of animal food is sufficient for the existing population. If, however, the increase of sheep and cattle be compared with the increase of population, it will be found that there is some cause for apprehending such a deficiency as will render compulsory some change in the habits of the people. It has been assumed that the increase of cattle is six per cent. and that of sheep five per cent. At this rate the increase in the present year will be 165,792 cattle and 645,259 sheep. Of these one sixth will be available for food, and at the weights before stated will produce 21,956,350 lbs. of meat, or animal food sufficient for 44,000 people. An examination of the population returns of New South Wales and Victoria will show that in 1857 there was an addition to the population of the former Colony of 18,614, and to that of the latter of 58,871, making a total addition to the mouths to be fed of 77,485. If the same amount of increase continues throughout the present year, which I think probable, one of two things must happen; either a smaller quantity of animal food must be consumed by each individual, or more than the proportion before stated of cattle and sheep must be slaughtered, in which case the annual increase will be lessened, and the supply for future years rendered more precarious.

I have in the calculation shown above been careful not to overstate the case. A reference to the statistics in page 816 of the Blue Book will show that the increase of cattle and sheep in each of the years from 1848 to 1857 has been as stated in the table below:

	CATTLE.	SHEEP.
1848 }	Increase 7 per cent. - -	— 3·9 per cent.
1849 }		
1849 }	Decrease 6 „ - -	— 4·5 „
1850 }		
1850 }	Neither increase nor decrease -	— 4·2 „
1851 }		
1851 }	Increase 8·7 per cent. -	— 4·2 „
1852 }		
1852 }	„ 3·1 „ - -	— 2·8 „
1853 }		
1853 }	„ 1·5 „ - -	— 2·6 „
1854 }		
1854 }	„ 17·0 „ - -	— 5·6 „
1855 }		
1855 }	„ 8·8 „ - -	Decrease 10·0 „
1856 }		
1856 }	„ 6·1 „ - -	Increase 5·2 „
1857 }		
	46·2	23·0
Mean increase	5·1	2·5

so that on an average of years it would seem that the increase of cattle, instead of being, as I have assumed at 6 per cent., is in fact only 5·1 per cent., while that of sheep, instead of being 5 per cent., is only 2·5. I may also observe, that the principal part of the land which is available for pasturage purposes in its natural state is already occupied and fully stocked; I mean of the land within reach of the markets of Sydney or Melbourne. The country to the northward of Moreton Bay, hitherto unoccupied, is too far distant from these markets to admit of any dependence being placed upon it for a supply of animal food.

The increase of price consequent upon the increased demand for meat may, probably, after a time, induce the adoption of measures by the settlers to increase the amount of food for stock of various kinds; but this cannot be done at once, neither will this addition to the grazing capabilities of the Colony have any very direct action in accelerating the rate of increase of stock. Should the price of meat rise much it may probably induce some of the settlers to substitute cattle for sheep on land which is fit for either of the two descriptions of stock; but as the profit accruing from sheep is at present far greater than that from cattle, the rise of price must be excessive to induce this change. I have gone at some length into the discussion of this question, which I consider to be one of special importance to the Colony. It has an incidental bearing upon the interests of the manufacturing population at home, as the probable result will be a diminution in the shipment of wool.

10. On reference to the statistical tables at the latter end of the book, it will be seen that an improvement has been made in the form and arrangement of the tables of imports and exports, which now show, not only the actual quantities and value of the different articles, but the country from which they are brought and to which they are sent. The tables show an increase of 23 per cent. in the value of imports and of 17 per cent. in that of the exports, the total value of the former being 6,729,405*l.* and of the latter 4,011,952*l.* This increase has taken place principally in the trade with the mother country, the tonnage from which has increased at the rate of 29 per cent. and the number of vessels at the rate of 24 per cent.

It would require a close analysis of the tables of imports and exports for different years to enable me to draw any correct inferences from them as to the relation between the facts exhibited and the manners and customs of the people, and I will not, therefore, attempt to do so. There is, however, one return to which I wish to draw your attention, namely, to that in page 879, of the number of convictions. It would seem from this that there has been a decrease in the number of convictions for felony of not less than 66, or upwards of 18 per cent.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.
&c. &c. &c.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. DENISON.

VICTORIA.

No. 32.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor Sir HENRY BARKLY, K.C.B., to the
Right Hon. Sir E. BULWER LYTTON, Bart.

(No. 31.)

Government Offices, Melbourne, March 31, 1859.

SIR,

(Received June 11, 1859.)

THE great delay which has occurred in furnishing the accompanying Blue Book Returns for 1857 will, I trust, not prove of much consequence, owing to the detailed "Report on the Progress and Statistics of the Colony from 1851 to 1858," published by Major Campbell as Registrar General at the time of the passing of the Railway Loan Act.

2. This delay, no doubt, is in part attributable to that gentleman's subsequent protracted illness and lamented decease, but chiefly to the late period at which the balance sheet to 31st December 1857, which it was thought desirable to include, was finally audited, together with the pressure of other work in the Government Printing Office, whence the Blue Book now emanates in the same form as other Parliamentary papers.

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3. Whatever the cause, lengthened comment on these returns would at this distance of time be superfluous, especially as Mr. Archler, late the Assistant-Registrar, who has succeeded as Registrar-General, (his former office being abolished,) assures me that the Blue Book for 1858 is ready for the printer, and I thus shall have a better opportunity very soon of instituting more extended comparisons.

4. I shall confine my present remarks, therefore, mainly to an elucidation of the special circumstances of the year 1857 through the figures presented, avoiding most of the general questions which were discussed in my Report with the Statistics of 1856.

5. The great prosperity which attended all industrial pursuits in this colony in that year gave an undue stimulus to commerce in the early part of the following one, and this must in any event have led to reaction.

6. The importations, which were valued at under fifteen millions sterling in 1856, rose over seventeen millions and a quarter in 1857, whilst the value of articles exported fell four hundred thousand pounds, barely exceeding fifteen millions. In respect to wool, hides, tallow, &c., the rise of prices at home so far compensated reduced quantities, but there was besides a considerable decrease in the production of gold, not susceptible of being thus counterbalanced.

7. In such a state of affairs the commercial crisis which was felt with such fearful intensity in the United States and throughout Europe in the autumn of 1857 might have been expected to prove most disastrous here, but it had scarce time to extend to Australia ere the close of the year, nor when it came were its effects very serious.

8. Still they were clearly manifest. The number and gross amount of insolvencies were in the two years respectively,—

1856	-	-	193	-	-	£ 646,544
1857	-	-	237	-	-	£ 967,907

and in the first months of 1858 the ratio of increase was even larger. The banks, who had so far gone with the tide that the debts of all kinds due to them had risen from 6,600,000*l.* on 31st December 1856 to 8,200,000*l.* on 30th September 1857, began to restrict their accommodation, and had wiped off 75,000*l.* by the end of the year; their note circulation, after an augmentation not justified by any increase in their stock of bullion, nor indeed by the deposits they held, which remained stationary at 6,000,000*l.*, standing at 50,000*l.* less than at the close of 1856.

9. Even this partial disturbance of trade was attended with a good deal of distress among the working classes, aggravated as it was by the slackness of mining operations on the gold fields from a dry season; and as immigration, both unassisted and at the public expense, was going on freely, many labourers could not obtain work, and an outcry was at length raised by the unemployed in the metropolis, which attracted the special interposition of the Government, as reported at the time.

10. The customs duties too indicated decreased power of consumption in the masses, having fallen from 1,658,868*l.* in 1856 to 1,583,649*l.* in 1857; but this decline would scarcely lead to the supposition of serious deterioration in the circumstances of the settled population; and I am happy to add, that the savings bank returns show that the more intelligent and thrifty continued to do well, the number of depositors having increased from 2,620 to 5,682, and the amount of deposits from 245,923*l.* to 374,868*l.*

11. Other branches of revenue as well as the customs likewise declined in 1857, but any serious deficit was averted by the continuance of a brisk demand for the public lands, of which a larger quantity was sold and at higher prices than in the preceding year, half a million acres being purchased at an average of over two guineas per acre.

12. On the other hand, the expenditure had been fortunately so materially reduced that with a revenue of but 3,234,074*l.* instead of 3,369,256*l.*, as in the preceding year, the Government was able to meet temporarily an outlay of upwards of 600,000*l.* on the Williamstown and Mount Alexander Railway, reducing the cash balance in the treasury merely from 584,480*l.* to 480,360*l.*

13. On the social progress of the colony during the year in question I shall not write much. Of crime I am sorry to say there was a great increase in all its grades. The capital executions rose from 1 to 15; an increase, however, mainly referable to the terrible expiation which it was necessary to exact for the murder of Mr. Price, the Inspector-General, by the convicts under his charge. The number of convictions in the Supreme Court rose from 272 to 425; offences against the person, as well as against property, and misdemeanors, all increasing. The commitments to the various gaols in like manner were 2,481 to 2,112 in the previous year, whilst the number remaining in confinement was 1,962, against 1,910 at the close of each respectively.

14. It is difficult to account for a sudden access of criminality like this. Distress may have had something to do with it; the convict outbreaks, and the misplaced sympathy

which for a time they excited, possibly more; by some the greater extension given to the ticket-of-leave system is considered the cause, though this is negatived by returns called for by the Chief Secretary, which show that out of 480 ticket-of-leave holders released in the year only twenty-nine were re-convicted. These returns, of which I enclose a copy, furnish a better clue, however, I think, in the large number of discharges which had taken place for the two or three years preceding, many of them no doubt through the effluxion of the sentences of the hardened ruffians, generally escaped convicts from Van Diemen's Land, convicted in the early days of the gold fields, when the law was first able to vindicate its supremacy; and this is a cause likely to operate for some years to come.

15. The other statistics of social progress will be found more complete than have heretofore been given, and satisfactory in regard to the future. The census taken during the year showed the population to be larger than had been estimated, and the additions subsequently brought it up to 463,135 souls at the close. The religious and educational provision fortunately kept pace with this increase. The churches and chapels returned rose from 473 to 587, with accommodation for 120,932 persons. The schools under the Denominational Board were augmented from 368 to 439, under the National from 87 to 101; the private schools, now first included, numbering 135. The total of children attending the whole was 36,671, or upwards of 10,000 more than were returned in 1856.

16. Agriculture, it will be seen from the comparative statement of cultivation and crops, continued to make rapid progress. I will not attempt an analysis myself, but add a copy of the same returns as laid before Parliament in a more detailed form, prefaced by a very interesting report from the late Registrar-General. I append, likewise, a further return as to the importation of live stock, because it may be well to point out that the encouraging view taken by Major Campbell of the supply is not shared by some; Sir William Denison, among others, being of opinion that the consumption of this colony so far exceeds its own production as to threaten to drain the markets of New South Wales and South Australia to such an extent as to threaten a scarcity of butcher's meat at no very distant period. The remedy, however, will probably be found in the extended cultivation of green crops, with a view to breeding and feeding cattle on a larger scale in Victoria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY BARKLY.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

TASMANIA.

TASMANIA.

No. 33.

No. 33.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir HENRY YOUNG to the Right Hon. HENRY LABOUCHERE.

(No. 24.)

Government House, Hobart Town,
March 9, 1858.

(Received, May 12, 1858.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Annual Report for 1857, which is usually accompanied by the Blue Book; this latter, however, will I apprehend not reach me from the Colonial Secretary's Department in time to be despatched by this mail.

2. The population on March 31, 1857, was 81,492; the births, 3,246; the deaths 1,420; the marriages, 897; and the immigration, 2,512 souls. The population at this date may be taken, I think, to be not less than 84,000 souls. The number of schools aided by Government in 1857 was 73, with 2,171 boys, 1,560 girls. The Supreme Court civil cases were 52 in number, the criminal cases 82, the executions 9, of whom 3 were convicts, and 6 were convicts free by servitude.

			£	s.	d.
3. The Revenue in 1857 was	-	-	272,908	19	10
The Debentures in aid	-	-	32,000	0	0
The total revenue	-	-	304,908	19	10
The total expenditure	-	-	294,979	8	2
The expenditure for immigration was	-	-	31,283	0	0
The expenditure for education	-	-	9,987	0	0

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The five banks in Tasmania had an aggregate of 2,019,873*l.* assets, and 1,365,894*l.* liabilities. The total coin in the Colony in 1857 was 521,211*l.* The insolvencies were 140; the assets being 50,997*l.*, the liabilities 71,894*l.* The mortgages on land in 1857 were 190,009*l.* The imports were 1,271,087*l.* The exports 1,354,651*l.* The debt of the Colony, now bearing interest at the present time, is 223,680*l.*; and 45,000*l.* more of debentures are authorized, but not yet issued.

4. The financial condition of the Colony at present, and for some time past, is so fully set forth in the exposition of the Budget for 1858 by the Colonial Treasurer, Mr. F. M. Innes, that I insert it here as explanatory of the measures that have been adopted to improve the Public Finance, and to make the incidence of Taxation more equal than has hitherto been the case.

Enclosure 1.

Survey Department.

5. The lands sold in 1857 consisted of 1,943 acres of pastoral land, averaging 1*l.* 16*s.* 10½*d.* per acre; 5,282 acres of agricultural land, averaging 1*l.* 8*s.* 9¾*d.* per acre; and 2,159 acres of suburban land, averaging 7*l.* 12*s.* 5¾*d.* per acre. The gross sales amounted to 27,658*l.*, exclusively of 7,868*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* for Hobart Town Wharf Allotments, site of the old Gaol, and an allotment including a building once intended for a normal school at New Town. The lands surveyed in 1857 comprised 35,507 acres pastoral; 30,521 acres agricultural; 625 township and 622 suburban lots.

Mr. James Sprent, whose labours on the trigonometrical survey of the Island were highly esteemed by my predecessor Governor-General Sir William Denison, was promoted to be Surveyor-General of Tasmania in 1857; and a new map of the Colony was completed under his directions for publication, and presented to me in that year, and of it I subjoin the following account from the Surveyor-General himself:—

“ For some time past a new map has been much required. The one hitherto in use bears date in 1839, was published by Mr. Cross, and the manuscript was furnished by Surveyor-General Frankland. It was an improvement upon any map of a prior date. It however contained many errors, and its materials were unavoidably scanty and unconnected. In 1847 a trigonometrical survey of the Island was commenced under Deputy Surveyor-General Major Cotton, and Mr. James Sprent, the present Surveyor-General, was placed upon the field work of the operation. The survey commenced at a base on the south side of the Island, and was measured three times. The first measurement was merely a trial for the sake of approximating the length and gaining a knowledge of the manipulation of the rods. The two latter measurements were made with every care, and the two results gave the most satisfactory determinations, the two measurements only differing 1½ inches from each other.

“ A base of verification was measured at Norfolk Plains, at a distance on the north side of the Island, of some 100 miles from the base on the south. The base on the south was nearly four miles, and the base on the north nearly five miles in length. The northern base was measured twice with the same means as that on the south, and the two measurements differed 3½ inches.

“ These bases were measured by deal rods, which were constructed under Major Cotton's direction, and according to his own plans. They ‘were,’ to use his own words, ‘of old Baltic fir, about fifteen feet long and two inches square; they were saturated with boiling oil, and varnished, rolled in flannel, and packed in sawdust in coffers of six inches square, closed at the end, but leaving the rods free to contract or expand. The rods were supported centrally in the coffers by means of blocks of wood; the coffers, aided by these blocks, serving to truss the rods. To the ends of the rods were attached brass caps, rising to the level of the surface of the coffers, and bearing upon their upper surface the scales by means of which their lengths were determined.’ The rods were measured by Troughton's four-foot steel scale, the extreme accuracy of which is well known. These rods were frequently measured during the operation, but did not exhibit any change, other than might arise from the manipulation. They appeared to remain constant in length. At work, these rods were placed upon tressels, and brought into the hypotenusal line in the usual manner; it required three rods to carry on the work consecutively. The hypotenusal distances were reduced to the base by the use of the spirit level, and the residual quantity reduced to the figure of the earth in the usual manner. The instrument used in taking the angles was Troughton's 12-inch altitude and azimuth circle, the latter graduated to 10”, and the former was read by a micrometer to 2”, and the instrument was placed on a repeating stand, so that the horizontal angles might be taken upon that principle.

“ The triangles were formed connecting the two bases, and calculations were made from the angles formed by the sides of these triangles, and the base of verification was determined. The base of verification was found by actual measurement and reduction to the level of the sea to be 25·745·7 feet, and the computed length to be 25·746·0 —·3 or about 8½ inches. The instruments were decidedly good of their kind, but not of course possessing the perfection of construction or minuteness of division of those used in the great surveys of Europe, India, and America.

“ These triangles were extended in every direction, and now cover the whole of the Island, and a skeleton map has been constructed upon the calculated lengths, showing the position of the stations both as regards the geodetic and geographical character. The triangulation is shown in its full extent, and can be used as a whole for a general map or as detail for parts, such as for country maps, and even smaller local surveys.

“ The general map was constructed upon this skeleton on a larger scale, viz. five inches to one inch. Country maps will shortly be taken in hand upon a scale of one inch to the mile for office purposes and for general information.

“ The triangulation was laid down by true bearings determined astronomically, and by co-ordinates calculated to a certain meridian. They were tested by the geodetic lengths from station to station. The work was found satisfactory, and bore most favourably the tests usually adopted in the plotting. By these means the capes and headlands, as well as the prominent rocks on the coast, were most correctly laid down, and the interior filled up with fixed points. The intervals between these fixed points have been filled up with the materials long accumulating in the department, and a large amount of information has been in consequence brought to light by the new construction.

“ The coast line has been measured by the chain from Arthur's River northerly to the north-west angle of the Island, and thence along the north coast to Cape Portland, thence along the east coast, including all the bays, &c. down to South-east Cape. The rest of the coast has been taken from nautical authorities, but the determination of the geographical positions have been given solely from the trigonometrical survey. In most cases these chain surveys were confined to parts where they were required for other purposes.

“ The interior of the Island was treated in much the same manner. The rivers and the roads were connected with the triangles in the settled districts, and placed upon the map in reference to these, and filled in detail from the chain surveys recorded in the Office. In the unsettled places on the west side of the Island no chain surveys have been made, so that the local features are very approximate only. As the chain survey advances this state of things will be very much improved; and I look forward to a time, not very far distant, when information regarding unsettled districts will be much enlarged, and of such a nature as can be faithfully placed upon a map. The map cannot be looked upon as complete, but rather as one reporting progress; still it will require some years before the department can furnish another containing much additional information.”

The survey is on a system of work by contract surveyors. The field notes sent with the plan are compared and plotted by the drafting department; compared with contiguous surveys on former occasions, office information of various character, and the personal inspection of the Surveyor-General when any discrepancies occur. The contract surveyors are esteemed by the Surveyor-General to be a respectable body of gentlemen, many of them long employed under the department on engagements different to those which now prevail. Their professional competency and character are well known; and their employment depending on good conduct, they are induced to be careful and faithful. Untried surveyors do not obtain such confidence; their work is more closely tested, and inspection on the ground is more required, until their accuracy is established. The Surveyor-General is of opinion that the Road Trustees throughout the Colony have been very assiduous in carrying out their plans, and a large sum of money has been satisfactorily expended. Other roads have been completed for the opening up of new lands. The country on the Gordon River Plains, beyond the Dunrobin Bridge, is about to be offered to private enterprise on favourable terms, the subject of a special Act of the local Parliament. The first occupant of the new country, Mr. W. H. Wells, reported to me recently that his flock of sheep were thriving there.

Coal Fields.

6. In my last Annual Report I entered at some length into the vast extent of the water resources of Tasmania, and the peculiar natural adaptation of the lakes and rivers of this island for irrigation. I now transmit a Report* by Dr. Milligan, the Secretary of the Local Royal Society, on another valuable natural resource of the Island, viz., its coal formations.

* Not printed.

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Immigration.

* These Reports
are not printed
on account of
their bulk.

Enclosure 3.
Tabular State-
ment.

7. The introduction of labour in 1857 was promoted at the public expense on the system known as that of the "Bounty Ticket;" and I annex the Reports* of the local agent for the half years ending 30th June and 31st December 1857 respectively. The number introduced was 2,512. It will be observed that the first of these Reports established that the pecuniary loss to Tasmania from re-emigration to Victoria during the last six years cannot have been great, and that the amount obtained from immigrants after arrival, in part repayment of passage money, and the sums paid as deposits for bounty tickets or otherwise, constituted an important contribution from the introducers of labour, and from immigrants themselves, which diminished the whole outlay as borne by the public funds. At the present time there are no public funds available for any fresh influx of population; and the bounty immigrants *en route* are not numerous. The "Highlanders" who arrived in the "Persian" suffered from typhus fever; their case has been already specially reported on to the Society which promoted their migration; and on the whole this supply was not well suited to the superior farm work which is at present required, and the young women need training to be useful country servants; only 90 single females for Hobart Town, and 60 for Launceston, have arrived since July 1857, a number quite inadequate to the demand. The ship "Trade Wind," which has recently arrived, and is now in quarantine, is reported as having on board a large proportion of single young men, thus increasing the already insufficient supply of young single women.

The Whale Fishery.

8. In the year 1857 this enterprise has not accomplished as much as was expected; the quantity of oil landed at Hobart Town between the 1st January and 31st December 1857 was 640½ tuns of sperm and 20 tuns of black oil.

The number of British and Colonial fishing vessels in 1857 was 32, with a tonnage of 6,183 tons; and there were six foreigners, of an aggregate tonnage of 2,458 tons.

Black whaling is now said to be of greater importance than sperm whaling, owing to a sudden rise in the price of whalebone.

The ship "Southern Cross," lately added to the list of whalers, is destined for a voyage as far to the south as possible; and the results of the voyage will probably determine a point of great interest in the whaling resources of Tasmania.

Post Office.

9. The state of the post office department in Tasmania remains the same as reported last year, except that by an Act recently passed to amend the law the postage has been raised from fourpence to sixpence per half-ounce for inland letters, being the rate now charged for sea-borne letters, and the postage within the towns of Hobart Town and Launceston is one penny.

Submarine Telegraph to connect Tasmania with Victoria.

* Not printed.

10. Annexed is a printed Parliamentary Paper* containing the results of a marine survey by Commander Ross, R.N., of the steamer Victoria, undertaken to determine the lines of soundings. It was found that the most suitable spot for the shore end of the cable near Cape Otway on the Victoria side of Bass's Straits was three quarters of a mile to the eastward of Point Franklin; the depth within 50 yards of the shore was 3½ fathoms. A line of soundings showed the greatest depth to be 55 fathoms about the middle of the Straits; at the north-west end of King's Island no marked unevenness was found, and the entire distance was sand and shells. Victoria Cove, at King's Island, was found to be peculiarly well adapted to be the connecting point between Victoria and Tasmania. The place chosen to take a cable from King's Island to Hunter's Island was on the east side, called Sea Elephant's Bay. From Hunter's Island to Cape Grim in Tasmania the ground was uneven, varying from 6 to 15½ fathoms midway. The distances are given as follows:—

Cape Otway to Victoria.

Cove, King's Island - - - - - 49 miles.

Victoria Cove to Sea.

Elephant Bay (land line)	- - - - -	18	„
Sea Elephant Bay to north-west Bight, Hunter's Island	48	„	
North-west Bight to South Cove (land line)	- - - - -	8	„
South Cove to Tasmania	- - - - -	4½	„
Total		127½	miles.

The cable is recommended to be 117 miles in length. The first two sections of the cable might readily be laid down from the ship, aided by good boats at the respective landings; the third would require a boat or barge of 12 tons, drawing 4 feet water. On land there is plenty of timber; the clearing would be considerable. The latter portion of the month of December is considered to be the safest time for laying down the cable. The gross payment to be made under contract for the completion of this work is to be 25,000*l.*, as agreed on with Mr. Joseph Oppenheimer for the house of S. A. Meyer and Co., of Manchester.

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Convict Department.

11. On the 31st December 1857 the convicts numbered 3,559; viz., 2,793 males and 806 females, of whom 154 females and 856 males were maintained by the Government. In the previous half year the total convicts were 5,421. During the year there were 33 deaths; thus leaving a total number of 1,789, who have either become free by servitude during the year, or obtained conditional pardons; of these 677 were females and 1,112 were males. 13,941 persons of the convict class are supposed to have quitted Tasmania within the last six years. The Legislature at Melbourne provide by law that the Royal Pardon is no protection of liberty to convicts; nevertheless, but few are known to have been apprehended or punished in the Colony of Victoria as emancipists from hence found there in contravention of the local law; therefore, it is fairly to be inferred that this violation of the prerogative has been in the great majority of instances inoperative; although there have been some cases, free from any new offence, in which the local law has been a great grievance to the individual. I have no reason to suppose that the convicts who have left Tasmania by expiry of servitude have made themselves obnoxious to justice elsewhere to an extent, if to any at all, establishing a necessity for the Victoria legislation in contravention of the prerogative on this subject. As respects the internal economy and condition of the Penal Establishment of the Island, I have caused Returns to be made at Port Arthur, from 1854 to 1857, of the aggregate number of days of convict labour in each year, distinguishing the description of work, the amount of work, agricultural produce or material acquired, rate of wages current in and about Hobart Town, and market value of this produce and material, and the value of the convict work, reckoning only two-thirds wages for convicts, except those in separate prison, who are reckoned at only half wages. The following results have been reported to me, in detailed tabular statements, by Mr. Boyd, the present able, successful, and experienced resident Civil Commandant at Port Arthur:—

In 1854 the daily average number of convicts was	-	720
The total number of days' work was	-	262,994
The value of the labour	-	£51,719
The total value of produce and material	-	£14,109
The daily average number of sick convicts was	-	14
" " in solitary confinement awaiting trial	-	6

The rate per cent. per annum of mortality on natural deaths was .0041:—

In 1855 the daily average was	-	843
" " sick	-	11
" " solitary confinement	-	8
" " rate of mortality as above	-	.0035
The total number of days	-	307,813
The value of labour	-	£45,881 18 <i>s.</i>
" produce and material	-	£13,671
In 1856 the daily average was	-	686
" " sick	-	12
" " solitary confinement	-	8
" " rate of mortality as above	-	.0029
The number of days	-	250,639
Value of produce and material	-	16,770
In 1857 the daily average number of convicts	-	556
The number of days' labour	-	208,179
The daily average number of sick	-	14
" " in solitary confinement	-	7
Rate of mortality	-	.0018
The value of labour	-	£27,595
" produce and material	-	£19,257

The number of prisoners discharged from Port Arthur since 1st January 1854, who have, under sentence, returned and were there on the 4th February 1858, is 152.

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The total number of days' labour in 1857, viz., 208,179, was distributed in the following manner :—

19,166 days raising farm produce, feeding and tending pigs, cattle, sheep, and cows.	562 days wheelwrights's labourers.
1,240 „ burning charcoal.	2,558 „ plasterers, brickmakers.
14,816 „ providing fuel.	987 „ navvies.
7,035 „ cutting and splitting timber.	2,432 „ washing.
1,140 „ providing lime.	366 „ attending to lamps.
2,200 „ making bricks.	620 „ removing sawdust and slabs.
310 „ making tiles.	228 „ messengers.
310 „ making other pottery, glazed pans, &c.	1,450 „ messengers to working parties.
411 „ earnings of schooner conveying stores.	130 „ mat making.
4,589 „ attending the sick.	265 „ nail making.
2,037 „ blacksmiths, vicemen, moulders, founders, engine-fitters, file-cutters.	930 „ painting and glazing.
310 „ boat building.	984 „ plastering.
657 „ bricklayers.	3,430 „ quarrying.
81 „ basket makers.	582 „ road making.
431 „ bookbinders.	3,220 „ on railroad.
3,285 „ baking.	150 „ school monitor.
395 „ shaving and hair cutting.	1,245 „ stone breaking.
5,408 „ manning boats.	229 „ assisting storekeeper.
60 „ broom makers.	10,956 „ guards.
930 „ blasting stone.	233 „ shingling buildings.
1,185 „ carpenters.	1,928 „ stone-cutting and masonry.
381 „ cooperage.	3,615 „ shoemaking.
1,468 „ cooking.	143 „ sail making.
620 „ clearing land.	5,724 „ signalmen.
722 „ cleaning churches.	17,707 „ servants.
277 „ unloading launches.	697 „ tin plate working.
7,439 „ filling in about harbour and wharf.	125 „ turning.
620 „ fencing paddocks and gardens.	1,254 „ tailoring.
2,243 „ constructing jetties and wharves.	310 „ handling tools.
65 „ feeding watch dogs at Eagle Hawk Neck.	1,824 „ water carrying.
2,753 „ attending public gardens.	9,532 „ wardsmen and scavengers.
1,825 „ herding cattle.	954 „ writing assistants.
309 „ making and repairing harness.	479 „ wheelwrights.
6,391 „ hand-carting materials.	3,598 „ separate treatment, basket making, oakum picking, tailoring, &c.
979 „ blacksmiths' labourers.	5,292 „ sick and exempt from labour.
2,113 „ carpenters' labourers.	486 „ received and awaiting classifications.
	336 „ discharged.
	2,615 „ solitary confinement and awaiting trial.
	21,544 „ Sundays, holidays, wet days.
	1 „ died from natural causes.

In February 1858 there were 53 voluntary attendants at the Convict School at Port Arthur, of whom 46 can read and write, and 11 of whom learned to do so there. The total number of convicts at Port Arthur who can read and write is 456, of whom 30 were taught in prison. The total number who can read only is 59. The number who can neither read nor write is 80. The nature of the instruction given is reading, writing, arithmetic, individually; and general instruction on history, geography, mechanics, pneumatics, hydraulics, and on miscellaneous subjects, from 6 till 8 o'clock, p.m. In the separate prison instruction is given in reading, writing, and arithmetic. Attendance at the evening school is entirely voluntary, but all are required to attend on Sunday evenings, the Protestants and Roman Catholics occupying different apartments and attending church at different hours under their respective clergymen. One convict is the registrar of the Meteorological Observatory; one is a writer to the Deputy Superintendent. As a rule, public reading is carried on every evening in each dormitory, from 6 to 8 o'clock, and on all occasions of leisure when the prisoners are in the yards. Books are likewise supplied to the out-stations and detached posts, the invalids and sick, the inmates of the separate prison, and some of the lunatics have books issued to them. The officers and constables obtain loans from the library, and all books are exchanged or the loan renewed every Saturday. The

library contains 2,713 volumes ; the number read by prisoners and invalids in each of the last three months has exceeded 200 volumes, and about 30 volumes a month are read by the officers.

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Military.

12. The total strength of Her Majesty's Forces in Tasmania, comprises 3 field officers, 3 captains, 7 subalterns, 4 staff officers, 26 serjeants, 8 drummers, and 401 rank and file. The men are practised from time to time to the use of the artillery guns at the batteries in Hobart Town ; their instructor is paid and the batteries are maintained after construction by the Royal Engineer Department at the cost of the Colony.

I annex a Report and accompanying Returns from the officer commanding the troops on the defences of the Island ; and I have to report that there is no intention at present on the part of the local Parliament to provide funds for raising any local force at the Colonial expense.

Enclosure 3.

In October 1857, in answer to a communication on the subject from the Major-General commanding the forces in Australia, he was informed that in the event of the Governor-General of India requiring the assistance of every available soldier, all the troops from hence could be available under such an urgent emergency, except the detachment of military regulars at Port Arthur ; and that the duty of a military guard at Hobart Town could be supplied by 100 of the pensioners now dispersed throughout the Colony in private occupations being called out to serve on pay under the Mutiny Act.

Ecclesiastical.

13. Colonial endowments, according to a local Parliamentary Return, dated November 1857, have been made in Tasmania to the Church of England, the Church of Scotland, the Church of Rome, and the Wesleyans, in the following aggregate of instances :—

Church of England,	lands in 122 places.
"	Money in 67 "
"	Salaries in 52 "
Church of Scotland,	lands in 22 places.
"	Money in 10 "
"	Salaries in 10 "
Roman Catholics -	lands in 20 places.
"	Money in 4 "
"	Salaries in 4 "
Wesleyans -	lands in 12 places.
"	Money in 2 "
"	Salaries nil.

The Church of England grants of land are of 10 acres, more or less, to the majority of the chaplaincies, either as glebe, burial ground, site of church, school, or parsonage. 400 acres were granted to St. David's, Hobart Town ; 200 acres to St. John's, in the town of Launceston ; 33 acres to the Lord Bishop and 300 acres *pro tempore* to the clergyman at Sorell. Money varying in amount from 200*l.* to 500*l.* has been given in aid of subscriptions for parsonages, churches, or chapels. Where there is no parsonage, there is an allowance of house rent. The salaries are : three at 250*l.*, and the other 26 salaries, each 200*l.* per annum. The Lord Bishop has a salary of 800*l.*, house allowance 200*l.*, orage 100*l.* The stipends, allowances, and grants have been made to the Church of Scotland and the Church of Rome in the same proportion. The Roman Catholic Bishop, Dr. Willson, has 400*l.* per annum ; house allowance 100*l.* ; forage allowance for two horses. The Wesleyan grant of 600*l.* per annum is paid into a Wesleyan Extension Fund, from which deficiencies of stipends on stations with inadequate voluntary support are supplied.

The payments for ecclesiastical purposes chargeable to imperial funds on account of convict services are as follows :—

The Roman Catholic Bishop, Dr. Willson, 54*l.* 15*s.* forage allowance.

Rev. Mr. Ryan, R. C. Chaplain, 200*l.*, and forage for one horse ; 75*l.* temporary increase.

Rev. G. Hunter, R. C. Chaplain, 200*l.* ; 100*l.* temporary increase ; 30*l.* lodging ; forage for one horse.

Rev. — MacGuire, R. C. Chaplain, 200*l.* per annum ; 100*l.* temporary increase 30*l.* lodging ; forage for one horse.

Rev. W. P. Bond, R. C. Chaplain, the same.

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Church of England:

Rev. T. J. Ewing, Queen's Orphan Schools, 150*l.* per annum; 67*l.* 10*s.* temporary increase.

Rev. G. Giles, Port Arthur, 250*l.* per annum; 75*l.* temporary increase.

Rev. J. B. Seaman, Hobart Town, 200*l.* per annum; 100*l.* temporary increase; 50*l.* lodging; forage for one horse.

Rev. G. Eastman, Hobart Town, 200*l.* per annum; 100*l.* temporary increase; 50*l.* lodging.

In 1857 the Lord Bishop, clergy, and laity of the Church of England (the latter being the elected representatives of its several congregations) assembled in the first Diocesan Synod. Its proceedings were satisfactory, orderly, and amicable.

*Royal Society.*Enclosure 5.

14. The Report of the Royal Society of Tasmania for 1857 gives information of its proceedings, and may be considered appropriate to be introduced into an annual Report of its state and progress.

Federation.

15. The two houses of the local Parliament, responding to the invitation of the Legislature of Victoria, agreed to a resolution in the month of February last, in reference to the Federal Government of the Australian Colonies, that it is desirable that delegates from the Australian Colonies should assemble in conference, with power to frame a plan of Federation for the approval of their respective Legislatures; and, accordingly, the House of Assembly appointed Dr. Butler, member for Brighton, and Mr. Gibson, member for Devon, to be delegates; and the Legislative Council appointed the Honourable W. Nairn, Esq., member for Meander, to be a delegate in conjunction with the delegates appointed by the House of Assembly. The report of the delegates will be laid before the Parliament at its next session.

Legislation.

16. The first session of the local parliament was ended by prorogation on the 5th June 1857, and its acts were reported in my Despatch, No. 81, of the 9th July 1857, transmitting the annual Blue Book of 1856.

The next session, with Mr. Francis Smith, the Attorney-General, as premier of the ministry, vice Weston resigned (retaining his seat in the Cabinet as before, without salaried office), opened on the 13th October 1857, and continued, with the interval of a month adjournment for the Christmas holidays, until the 25th February 1858, when it was prorogued, after passing 53 Acts. Several subjects were dealt with by the Legislature which are of permanent interest. I would specify more especially the Land Fund Act. It separates the proceeds of the sales and other disposals of public lands from other branches of the Revenue, and declares them to be exclusively applicable to two purposes only, the survey, &c. of the land and the public debt.

The Act to amend the law relating to the election of members of the Parliament of Tasmania, abolishing nominations at public meetings, &c. The amended mode of nomination being that any two electors may, in writing, nominate to the returning officer not exceeding the number to be elected, and publication shall be made thereof; and none but those so nominated shall be eligible for election.

The Property Valuation Act, establishing a uniform valuation of property, according to which all public assessments may be assessed and collected;

The Act providing for the creation of rural municipalities;

The Waste Lands Act in lieu of that of the Imperial Parliament; and

The Act to authorize the gratuitous disposal, upon certain conditions, of certain unsettled waste lands.

In the first mentioned of these Waste Lands Acts it is enacted that the Governor in Council shall have power to make land regulations; that there shall be Commissioners of Crown lands, and a deputy Commissioner; a classification of lands into three classes, viz., town lands, agricultural lands, pastoral lands; any lands may by proclamation be declared to be agricultural lands; the lowest upset price is 10*s.* per acre for land not held, and never held, under grazing licence; and of all other lands the lowest upset price shall be 1*l.* per acre, until the said lands have been exposed for sale at public auction, and, not having been sold, have remained open for sale by private contract for six months, and are unsold; then the upset price may be reduced by the Commissioner. All lands may be sold by auction; town lands must be sold by auction, and not otherwise.

Agricultural lands shall be sold by auction in lots not exceeding 160 acres each.

Pastoral lands by auction, not exceeding 1,280 acres each. Notice of sale to be published.

Commissioner, prior to notice of sale, is to fix upset price; and if not sold, shall fix a lower or higher upset price, but so that the upset price shall never be lower than the upset price fixed by the Act, plus the cost of survey and grant deed.

Agricultural and pastoral lands may be sold in certain cases by private contract; right may be had of selection and purchase by private contract at upset price, no person selecting more than one lot; the right of selection being restricted, however, to unoccupied lands not advertised for sale.

Payment of purchase money on sale by auction may be on credit, as also on sale by private contract; town lands by annual instalments of one fourth; agricultural or pastoral lands by auction or private contract; the credit shall be by annual instalments of one tenth; failure of payment of any instalment to forfeit land; no credit where price is less than 40%. Purchaser cannot transfer until full price be paid. Grants of land may be made for works of public utility, to be forfeited on non-completion of the works, or resumed for the defence of the Colony.

Leases, not exceeding 14 years, of land surveyed or unsurveyed, may be had after notice in Gazette, at a rent not exceeding one pound for every 100 acres, or if not previously occupied, for a rent not exceeding ten shillings for every 100 acres.

Pastoral lands, not previously occupied, may be leased at 1*l.* per 100 acres. Agricultural or pastoral lands may be had on licence of occupancy, not exceeding 12 months, under certain regulations, also licence to fell timber.

The other Act, to provide for the gratuitous disposal on certain conditions of certain unsettled lands in Tasmania, refers to a tract which comprises about five millions of acres, access to which by land is opened across the Derwent River at Dunrobin Bridge, and the natural shipping places are Port Davey and Macquarie Harbour.

In this great and well-watered tract gratuitous grants in fee may be made of any quantity not less than 50 acres, or more than 640 acres, on condition that the applicant is possessed of capital equal to one pound sterling for every acre; live stock, machinery, implements of agriculture, or sawing timber, to be considered as capital; and that proof is given to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that the applicant desires to settle upon and cultivate the land. The interest under this contract not to be assignable, but appointment may be made of another to take the land in the event of applicant's death.

Gratuitous leases for a term of 10 years at a pepper-corn rent, of land not exceeding 10,000 acres, may be had on the following terms, viz., the land shall be stocked within a year with sheep or cattle in the proportion of 100 sheep or 20 head of cattle to every 1,000 acres.

In order that the very satisfactory work of the most recent Session of the Local Parliament may be clearly placed on record, I subjoin the latest Prorogation Speech; and in closing the present Annual Report, I desire to add that the first three years of my administration have convinced me of the great resources and capabilities of the Island. They require, indeed, only a continued prudent adaptation of those local improvements which modern civilization makes essential to social progress, to entitle Tasmania to become, what nature has fitted her to be, the most attractive of the Australian settlements.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Henry Labouchere,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) H. E. F. YOUNG.

Enclosure 5.

Enclosure 1 in No. 33.

COLONIAL TREASURER'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 2nd FEBRUARY 1858.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

House of Assembly.—Tuesday.

The House resumed sitting at 7 o'clock p.m.

COMMITTEE OF WAYS AND MEANS.

On the motion of the Colonial Treasurer the House resolved itself into a Committee of Ways and Means.

THE BUDGET.

The Colonial Treasurer rose and said—Sir,—The proper time is arrived to enter into a statement of the present financial situation of the Colony, and it is my desire and the desire of my hon. colleagues that that statement should be as full, clear, and intelligible as it is in my power to make it. We do not labour under any motives for reservation; we wish the facts connected with the financial condition of the

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Colony to be as thoroughly known to every member of the House and to every member of the community as they are to ourselves, and this we apprehend will be the necessary consequence of the statement I have to submit. To make the present financial condition of the Colony intelligible, it will be necessary to take a retrospect of the past; and it will be found that the present financial situation of the Colony is a necessary consequence of the past. At the close of the year 1854 or the beginning of the year 1855, the Colony had to its credit the sum of 76,549*l.* 14*s.* From the Land Fund, after paying the current expenses named in the schedules, amounting to 47,904*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.*, there remained a balance of 55,429*l.*, which added to 76,549*l.* 14*s.*, gives the sum of 131,978*l.* 14*s.* to begin the year 1855 with in aid of the current expenditure. The revenue derived from Customs and Wharfrage dues for that year amounted to 161,821*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.*, exceeding the revenue derived from the same sources during the years 1856 and 1857 by, in round numbers, say 30,000*l.* The other revenues for that year derived from sources of a miscellaneous character amounted to 60,000*l.* on an estimate of 90,000*l.* The year 1855 closed, and we find that there remained to the credit of the Colony and available for the year 1856 the sum of 13,167*l.* 0*s.* 5*d.*, and to the credit of the Land Fund the sum of 9,738*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.*, making together a total sum of 22,905*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.* Before the close of the year 1855 there was a marked declension in the amount of revenue derived from Customs duties, and the Governor in his speech to the Council in July 1855 adverted to this falling off; and in November of the same year His Excellency again adverted to the subject, and urged upon the Legislature the necessity of adopting some means to bring up the revenue to the necessary expenditure. The Council however closed its sittings on that occasion without having adopted any means, if we except the passing of a Bill authorizing the raising of 200,000*l.* by debentures, to be applied for immigration purposes; and by a clause in that Bill, in consideration that the sum of 100,000*l.* had been expended from the General Revenue for immigration purposes, the sum of 100,000*l.* was ordered to be appropriated in aid of the General Revenue of the Colony. The year 1856 passed and the year 1857 opened. At the latter part of 1856 Parliament under its present constitution first assembled, and His Excellency in his opening speech adverted to the financial situation of the Colony, and pointed out the necessity of adopting means to bring up the revenue to the expenditure of the country. At a later period my hon. friend, Mr. Chapman, who then held the office I now hold, made his financial statement to the House, and when proceeding to develop the measures he proposed for raising a revenue, he adverted to the deficiency of the previous year, and the Legislature authorized that the sum of 80,000*l.* should be raised by debentures to cover that deficiency. It would thus appear that for two years the expenditure of the Colony was met by loans—bills on posterity: and that no other measures were adopted to raise the revenue of the Colony over the expenditure voted by its Legislatures. I need not now advert to the measures which my hon. friend proposed for raising a revenue to meet the expenditure; it is sufficient for me to state that of those measures a Bill authorizing the raising of 32,000*l.* by debentures alone was sanctioned. It is necessary in the account I have now to submit to the House to commence that account with a statement of the provision made last year to cover the liabilities of the preceding year, namely, the sum of 80,000*l.* to be raised by debentures, to cover those liabilities. It will be in the recollection of this House that those debentures did not sell at par, but realized only 75,812*l.*; then we have to add to this the amount received from the Commissariat for postal services 750*l.*; convict and military publications in the "Gazette," 113*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.*; maintenance of convicts in lunatic asylum, 5,459*l.* 17*s.*; refunded, 9*d.* ration for paupers in hospital, 2,116*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.*; amount still due from Commissariat for convicts in penal establishments, 2,360*l.*; from the governments of New South Wales and Victoria for lighthouses at Kent's Group for 1855 and 1856, 26,000*l.*; which added to the sum of 75,812*l.* raised on debentures, amounts to the sum of 89,212*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.*, to be appropriated in aid of an expenditure of 79,972*l.* 2*s.* The provision thus made left the sum of 9,240*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.* to the credit of the Colony and to cover the arrears of 1856, but of this sum there was the sum of 5,000*l.* due to the British Government, which had not been paid. The Estimates voted in 1857 amounted to 325,399*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.*, and the revenue was estimated at 280,727*l.*, but of this sum 23,000*l.*, being the amount of increased Customs duties, was never collected; this leaves 257,727*l.*, added to which the sum of 32,000*l.*, land debentures, gives the total amount of revenue at 289,727*l.*, to meet an expenditure of 335,399*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.*, thus leaving an excess of expenditure over the revenue of 45,672*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.* The duty now devolves upon me of offering some explanation as to the sums realized and expended. The Customs revenue yielded 23,000*l.* less than was estimated, owing to the amount of 20,000*l.* having never been collected—there was also another sum of 3,000*l.*, estimated to have been received from other sources, but that having also failed, the deduction left a revenue of 257,727*l.* to meet an expenditure of 335,399*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.* The deficiency by the statement in the estimate of 22,000*l.*, but increased by the sum of 23,000*l.*, made the deficiency amount to 45,000*l.* The Customs duties for that year were 125,618*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.* on an estimate of 144,037*l.*, showing a decrease of 18,418*l.* 18*s.* 2*d.*; the lighthouse and harbour dues were 6,026*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.* on an estimate of 6,000*l.*, showing an increase of 1,026*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.*; this, with the sum of 735*l.* 18*s.* 2*d.*, makes a total decrease on the estimates amounting to 23,516*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.* The territorial revenue amounted to 40,937*l.*, but on this there was an increase of 17,558*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.* In rents there was an increase of 63*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.*; licences, increase, 463*l.*; Post Office, 431*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.*; fines and fees, decrease 5,358*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.*; sale of Government property, 1,924*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.*; interest, decrease, 69*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.*; reimbursements, increase, 112*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.*; miscellaneous receipts, 812*l.* 0*s.* 1*d.*: from electric telegraph, 264*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.*; contribution from Home Government, decrease, 9,653*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.*; New South Wales and Victoria, decrease with respect to lighthouses on Kent's Group, 1,300*l.*; showing a total apparent decrease of 18,771*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.*; but of this sum there was the sum of 10,953*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.* due from the Commissariat and from the Governments of New South Wales and Victoria. The real increase of the revenue amounted to 15,181*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.* It is necessary that one should discriminate the character of the items. The revenue had been brought up principally from the Land Fund, viz.:—Sales, 18,787*l.*; the excess of rental above the estimate being 3,906*l.*; total, 22,151*l.*; the actual revenue being 26,056*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.*, and the total increase, 20,000*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.* But it is more significant to observe, that on what was estimated as the revenue from the Customs duties on imported goods, viz., 121,256*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.*, there was a decrease of 1,942*l.* 18*s.* 2*d.*, that being a decrease of 27,789*l.* 19*s.* 7*d.* on the preceding year. With regard to the expenditure—under the heads of establishments and fixed salaries, the estimates gave the sum of 130,293*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*, whereas the actual

amount was 119,550*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.*; but that estimate included the sum of 579*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* for the electric telegraph; so that the total diminution in the cost effected by reductions amounted to 11,955*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.*, and in allowances a decrease on the estimate of 13,868*l.* 10*s.* of 2,663*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.*, making a total diminution on establishments of 14,222*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.* In pensions and retiring allowances, in consequence of reductions effected, there was an increase of 1,265*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*; in revenue services a decrease of 1,086*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.*; in the administration of justice, 211*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.*; ecclesiastical, 330*l.* 17*s.*; charitable allowances, 2,791*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*; education, 2,155*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.*; police and gaols, 443*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.*; and various other sums deducting the increase, in which the total decrease of expenditure was 40,420*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.*; leaving, instead of a deficient revenue, a balance in the Treasury of 9,929*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.* available for the service of the succeeding year. We have now arrived at the commencement of the year 1858, and in stating its finances it will be necessary to divide the expenditure into three divisions, viz., the extraordinary expenditure which must be met, the expenditure on the Land Fund, and the General Revenue. The extraordinary liabilities arise out of the debentures issued in 1856; and in the course of the present year the following sums become due on account of debentures:—

	£
February 1 - - - - -	48,300
May 31 - - - - -	10,800
August 1 - - - - -	12,000
September 18 - - - - -	15,700
November 11 - - - - -	12,300
<hr/>	
Making payable in Hobart Town - - - - -	99,100
And in London - - - - -	18,400
<hr/>	
Total - - - - -	£117,500

It could scarcely have been contemplated that we could have been provided with means to meet so large a sum, and from the revenue that we have of course that sum could not be met. I am happy, however, to state that provision has been made without any inconvenience to meet all the debentures as they become due. The Government were in a position to raise money on the re-issue of debentures, so as to supply the place of those that had been drawn; and the Government were in a position to realize par for any they might re-issue. It was one of many inconveniences that so large a sum of accumulated liability should become due in one year, and a little forethought was desirable in spreading the repayments over a number of years; and accordingly a Bill would be introduced to the House to authorize the re-issue of debentures to the amount of 80,000*l.*, so as to cover the amount which had to be paid this year. And as a provident Government would always endeavour to equalize the burdens, so as not to press more heavily at one time than another, it was proposed to distribute the repayments on account of these debentures over a series of years commencing in 1860 and ending in 1866; thus the total aggregate of extraordinary liabilities would not in any one year exceed the sum of 25,000*l.* As I am now referring to the issue of debentures, it is well that the House should distinctly understand, in reference to the debentures issued, that their total amount is 282,280*l.* less the sum of 58,600*l.*, for the payment of which provision has been made in England and in this Colony, thus reducing the total sum owing on debentures to the sum of 223,680*l.*, and that sum constituted the total amount of debt owing by the Colony bearing interest. A large issue of debentures had been authorized to the amount of 45,000*l.*; but the providence of the Executive was shown in the manner in which they had issued them, viz., only when the special exigencies of the case required such issues. I will pass lightly over the estimated revenue arising from the Land Fund for the present year. It would be very difficult for any one to form a calculation of what would likely be the amount of land revenue under the new land policy, but I and my colleagues have sufficient confidence in the success of a land scheme such as we have proposed to Parliament, and been accepted by them, that it will not entail any financial inconvenience to the Colony, but on the contrary, that the revenue arising from the Land Fund will cover all its liabilities. I will now come to the statement of the estimated expenditure and general local revenue for 1858. The total amount of expenditure is estimated at 208,978*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.* To meet this, the probable and general and local revenue from existing sources is, Customs from imports, 121,000*l.*; Inland Revenue, viz., rents from toll-gates, 1,929*l.* 10*s.*; licences, 26,000*l.*; Post Office, 9,400*l.*; fines, fees, and forfeitures, 8,176*l.*; sale of Government property, 1,600*l.*; reimbursements in aid of expenses incurred by Government, 580*l.*; miscellaneous receipts, 1,180*l.*; reimbursements from land revenue, 4,863*l.* 4*s.*; electric telegraph, 700*l.*; Governor's establishment, 400*l.*; making a total of Inland Revenue of 54,828*l.* 14*s.* Grants in aid from the British Treasury, viz., in aid of postage to 1st April, 375*l.*; in aid of police to 1st April, 1,500*l.*; for printing military and convict notices in "Gazette," 175*l.*; maintenance of convicts in lunatic asylum, 4,500*l.*; ditto in penal establishments, 1,500*l.*; total, 8,050*l.*; making a grand total of 183,878*l.* 14*s.*, being the amount of estimated revenue to meet an expenditure of 208,978*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.*, thus leaving a deficiency of 25,099*l.* 9*s.* 5*d.* When some time since there was forced upon the Government the necessity of addition to the revenue to meet the expenditure, and to supply from established sources in the Colony the place of a deficient revenue, the question that naturally occurred to them was—what is the incidence of the present system of taxation in the Colony, and how does it fairly press on persons and property. We were perfectly aware that in all countries in which the financial system is based on satisfactory and clear principles there is a material difference, proportioned to the varieties of fortune and situation. In England the general and local taxation on income amounted to 20*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.* per cent.; and on persons to 2*l.* 14*s.* 2½*d.* In New South Wales the taxation upon the estimated revenue is 2*l.* 15*s.* per head upon the population, and if the financial projects of that Colony be adopted, the taxation will be raised to 3*l.* 7*s.* per head. The actual revenue of the Government of New South Wales in 1856 was 1,075,331*l.*, and the value of the exports 3,439,880*l.*; therefore the proportion was 31*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.* per cent. on the value of the exports of the Colony. In South Australia the revenue for 1856 was 433,420*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.*, and the value of the exports 1,398,367*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.*, showing the proportion to be 30*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.* per cent. In Tasmania the revenue for

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1856 was 266,741*l*. 3*s*. 5*d*., and the value of the exports 1,207,802*l*., showing the proportion to be 22*l*. 1*s*. 6*d*. per cent. The taxation of the Colony, in the years 1854, 1855, and 1856, bore a proportion to the population of 2*l*. 5*s*. 9*d*. per head. The system of taxation in this Colony has in a few years exhibited a diminished burden on property, and an increased burden on persons. The Customs and internal taxation of this Colony, taking the average of the years 1849, 1850, and 1851, to the value of the exports, amounted to 14*l*. 15*s*. per cent.; and notwithstanding the augmented costs of government in 1854, 1855, and 1856, we find it reduced to 13*l*. 10*s*. per cent.; the average to imports of the former period being 16*l*. 3*s*. per cent., and the latter 10*l*. 2*s*. per cent.; the latter being 6*l*. 1*s*. less than the former. The property, as indicated by deposits in our banks, is as follows:—In 1849, 1850, and 1851, the average deposits amounted only to 370,033*l*. 18*s*. 0½*d*. In 1854, 1855, and 1856, they were 1,534,639*l*. 10*s*. 11½*d*. The taxation of the country corresponded in the former period to 24*l*. 9*s*. per cent., in the latter to 11*l*. 18*s*. per cent.; whilst on mere population it has been increasing, the average of 1849, 1850, and 1851, being 1*l*. 5*s*. 10*d*. per head, and of 1854, 1855, and 1856, 2*l*. 5*s*. 9*d*. per head, or 30 per cent. increase. We are too often accustomed to speak of the taxation of the Colony in a lumped sum. The taxation lumped on spirits, tobacco, tea, sugar, and a few licences gives a total of 2*l*. 5*s*. 9*d*. per head, but it does not give more than five or six shillings to non-consumers of spirituous liquors and tobacco in a country the Government of which carried on a Post Office at a loss of 14,000*l*.; which spent 12,000*l*. in educational purposes, and 15,000*l*. in ecclesiastical and all the institutions of an advanced state of society. It was necessary, therefore, to contemplate the adjustment of the revenue to the obligations of property and persons. The principle of this financial system of the Colony was adopted by the Legislature some years since, and was suggested by my hon. friend, Mr. Chapman, who substituted fixed for *ad valorem* duties. The expediency of that principle of the fiscal system was confirmed by its subsequent adoption in New South Wales and Victoria. The Colony of South Australia was invited to follow the example, but the Government declined, not having developed any new sources of revenue. It is, however, worth while to observe the course the Colonies had taken on finding that their revenues were insufficient to meet their expenditure. In New South Wales the duty on brandy has been raised from 6*s*. to 10*s*., and in Victoria from 7*s*. to 10*s*.; in New South Wales, rum was raised from 4*s*. to 7*s*., and in Victoria from 7*s*. to 10*s*.; gin was increased in New South Wales from 6*s*. to 10*s*., and in Victoria from 7*s*. to 10*s*., and wines, tobacco, sugar, and coffee had been doubled. And not finding the revenue then adequate, New South Wales had resorted to other modes of raising a revenue. The revenue from the distillation of spirits in 1857 amounted to 70,000*l*., and gold licences, miners' rights, &c. to 76,000*l*.; and up to the latest intelligence it was contemplated to raise the sum of 20,000*l*. by an assessment on stock; and Mr. Donaldson, no mean authority, had declared that the General Government must relieve itself by casting on municipal bodies the burden of local taxation. In Victoria, after raising the fixed duties on Customs by 374,550*l*. 6*s*. 8*d*. by the assessment of stock, they contemplated a still further provision amounting to 71,703*l*. 15*s*. 7*d*. The question at the present time, in the absence of new sources of revenue developing themselves in this Colony, was, what course of financial legislation the ministry should take. It had occurred to us, with no disposition to favour the adoption of *ad valorem* duties, how far it might be incumbent on us to take that course; but a little examination of the returns of imports to the Colony for a series of years will at once point to the conclusion at which we have arrived. Total imports at ports in the Colony of Tasmania for the year ended 31st December 1856 were 1,442,106*l*., viz., from Great Britain: value of articles liable to fixed duty, 161,508*l*.; value of articles which pay no duty, as cattle, sheep, flour, or grain, 36,662*l*.; value of articles which pay no duty, not included in the above, 614,575*l*.; total imports from Great Britain, 812,745*l*. Inter-colonial: value of articles liable to fixed duty, 147,459*l*.; ditto, which pay no duty, as cattle, sheep, flour, or grain, 237,122*l*.; value of articles which pay no duty, not included in the above, 181,054*l*.; total imports Inter-colonial, 565,635*l*. United States and other Foreign States: value of articles liable to duty, 12,799*l*.; ditto, which pay no duty, as cattle, sheep, flour, or grain, 31,437*l*.; value of articles which pay no duty, not included in the above, 19,490*l*.; total imports, United and the Foreign States, 63,726*l*. Total miscellaneous imports, excluding cattle, sheep, flour, grain, and articles subject to fixed duty, 815,119*l*.; value of this description of imports expected again, 146,289*l*.—total, 668,830. Reduced nominal value if duties imposed, say 600,000*l*. Average *ad valorem* of 5 per cent., 30,000*l*. The value of imports at ports in the Colony of Tasmania for the year ended 31st December 1857 were—total imports, 1,271,087*l*.; value of articles imported chargeable with a fixed duty, 351,038*l*.; value of articles coming under the designation of food, such as cattle, sheep grain, &c., and imported free of duty, 182,353*l*.; value of articles of a miscellaneous character not chargeable with duty, 737,696*l*.; value of miscellaneous imports, re-exported, estimated in the proportion of re-exports of 1856, 132,394*l*.; remaining, 605,302*l*.; reduced nominal value, if duties were imposed, 550,000*l*. On considering the whole question, and the probable increased cost of collection in the event of adopting the *ad valorem* principle, as well as the risk of inconvenient retaliating Inter-colonial duties, we determined not to resort to that principle; but bearing in mind these two leading principles, the raising of an adequate revenue and the equitable adjustment of the burden of taxation, we have deemed it expedient to consider what was the nature of the expenditure of the Colony, when we came to entertain the question of adjusting the revenue to the expenditure. The House must, to a certain extent, have been prepared for the financial policy of the Government when the estimates were submitted—a distinction being made between the Local and the General Expenditure. In the estimates for 1857, if analysed, it would be seen that the General Expenditure was estimated at 178,574*l*. 14*s*. 8*d*., and the Local at 156,824*l*. 19*s*. 9*d*.; but I need not now enter into details. The Local Expenditure would comprise police, gaols, ecclesiastical, roads, and public works. I shall not trouble the House with any statement of the expenditure estimated in the various districts of the Colony, as in some of the districts any conclusion that may be drawn will be complicated by a variety of considerations, but there are some districts so purely agricultural or pastoral in their character, that it is easy to discriminate what the expenses are.

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Encl. 2 in
No. 33.

Enclosure 2 in No. 33.

STATEMENT of TOTAL IMMIGRATION to TASMANIA, at the Public Expense, during the Half-Year ending 31st December 1857.

	Births on the Voyage.			Deaths on the Voyage.								Immigrants Introduced.										Passage Money.									
				Mar- ried.	Single.	3 and under 12.	1 and under 3.	Under 1.	Total.	Mar- ried.	Single.	3 and under 12.	1 and under 3.	Under 1.	Num- ber.	Total Souls.	Statute Adults.														
Bounty System.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.									£	s.	d.	
From the United Kingdom	3	2	5	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	5	137	157	364	295	109	75	34	25	16	14	660	566	1,226	1,075	17,082	0	0
From Germany	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	4	7	7	2	1	-	-	-	-	12	12	24	22½	337	10	0
TOTAL Bounty System	3	2	5	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	5	140	161	371	302	111	76	34	25	16	14	672	578	1,250	1,097½	17,419	10	0
Through the Highland and Island Emigration Society, from the Islands of Coll and Harris	-	-	-	2	1	1	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	8	26	27	47	43	15	25	4	3	2	1	94	99	193	166½	*2,716	0	0
TOTAL	3	2	5	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	-	13	166	188	418	345	126	101	38	28	18	15	766	677	1,443	1,264	20,135	10	0

	<i>£</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
TOTAL Passage Money : : : : : :	20,135	10	0
Gratuities - - - - -	632	14	3
	<hr/>		
	20,788	4	3
Less deposits received on Ordinary Bounty Tickets - - - - -	2,537	0	0
Do. Amount of Promissory Notes received on Blank Bounty Tickets - - - - -	153	0	0
	<hr/>		
	18,078	4	3

* Calculated at 16*l.* per Statute Adult, which is believed to be the rate paid in England. These Emigrants were sent out with the balance of 3,000*l.*, remitted to the Highland Society by this Government several years ago.

JOHN D. LOCK, Immigration Agent.

Enclosure 3 in No. 33.

SIR,

Head-quarters, Hobart Town, March 4, 1858.

Head-quarters, Hobart Town, March 4, 1856.

SIR, AGREEABLY to the instructions contained in the letter dated Horse Guards, 9th January 1857, and its several enclosures, I have the honour to forward returns and reports* relative to the state of the defences of this Colony.

The present defences of the Colony consist in the batteries at Hobart Town and Launceston, the Queen's troops stationed in this Island, and a local force of pensioners.

The batteries at Hobart Town and Launceston are in an efficient state, as shown in the accompanying Report from the Commanding Royal Engineer.

The Queen's troops stationed in Tasmania consist of 15 officers, 27 serjeants, 7 drummers, and 382 rank and file, and are distributed as follows:—

—	Officers.	Serjeants.	Drummers.	Rank and File.
At Hobart Town - -	13	24	7	299
At Launceston - -	-	1	-	13
At Tasman's Peninsula -	2	2	-	70
Total - -	15	27	7	382

More than half of the regiment at present stationed here have been trained to the battery and field-gun exercise, and the remainder are in course of instruction.

The only local force existing in this Colony consists of a body of pensioners, which, by the returns herewith transmitted, show a strength of 288 men fit for duty. This body of men came out here as convict guards, and have obtained a small grant of land as settlers in various parts of the Island. They are, consequently, scattered in small bodies, generally near some township. They might be effective in suppressing internal emeutes, but from their age and character, I do not think they would be an available force against an external enemy.

The police force, which is a numerous body in this Island, appears to me to be well organized; these, if called out, would be efficient against an external enemy.

The general feature of the Island of Tasmania is mountainous and woody; a large portion of the northern side (about Launceston especially) has been cleared for cultivation. One main road runs through the centre of the island from Hobart Town to Launceston, and is in very good order; there are also several by-roads leading to the different townships. Owing to the wooded state of the country, a small force, with local knowledge, could oppose almost any force traversing the country.

The staple of the wealth of this Colony consists in wool, timber, oil, and agricultural produce. There have been many discoveries of gold; up to the present moment, however, no remunerating gold field has been worked.

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The principal towns are Hobart Town and Launceston, and in which the whole of the wealth of the Island may be said to be concentrated; and hence the defence of these places I deem to be the great essential to be looked to. I consider that floating batteries placed in advance of the town would, in conjunction with casemated batteries on shore, be more effective for the protection of these places than the present arrangement of the batteries.

The sea approach to both towns is a lengthy channel; that to Launceston in many parts extremely narrow, that to Hobart Town more open and less easily defended.

The population of the Island, of every description, by the last census amounts to 81,492. Among these are many liberated convicts and ticket-of-leave men: many of both these classes have amassed considerable property in the Island. I think, therefore, that an efficient militia might be organized; in which case, I should recommend those from the towns should be embodied as artillery, and those from the rural districts as a mounted rifle corps, for which the pursuits of the country population would well adapt them.

There appears to me to be no great inducement for an enemy to visit this Colony, except for the purpose of destroying the mercantile shipping and for pillage.

Perhaps, therefore, were a joint fleet raised by the whole of the Australian Colonies, it would afford, in all probability, the most desirable and efficient description of protection from aggression.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. W. PERCEVAL, Colonel,
Commanding Troops, Tasmania.

To His Excellency Sir H. Young, K.C.B.,
Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief, Tasmania.

Encl. 4. in
No. 33.

Enclosure 4 in No. 33.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA, 1857.

REPORT.

THE Council of the Royal Society of Tasmania, in pursuance of their usual custom, present to the Annual General Meeting of Members, their report upon the operations of the Society during the year which has closed. It is very satisfactory to the Council to have to record that the session, or rather year, has been, as regards this Institution, a successful one. The position which the Society has established for itself in public opinion here, and the estimation in which it is held by kindred associations in other parts of the world, afford an excellent guarantee for future progress, and give ample assurance that with the possession of adequate skill and ability, means and encouragement fully commensurate will ultimately be forthcoming for the prosecution of its objects.

The evening meetings of the Society—fourteen in number—have been numerous attended, and valuable papers have been read upon the following amongst other subjects:—upon *Irrigation*, as applicable to this Colony; upon some branches of *Statistics*; upon *Meteorology* and *Astronomical Observations*; upon the introduction of the *Breed of Salmon* into the Island; upon *Insects* destructive to certain edible sorts of vegetation, &c. &c. The question of the comparative nutritive value of Tasmanian wheat and flour having been raised, a Committee was appointed to investigate and report; the Committee, in the first instance, restricted its experiments to flour, and the results obtained have been most favourable to that of Tasmania, which is found fully to sustain its character for excellence, and to be equal in quality to any flour in the southern hemisphere.

Communications have been opened with the Home Authorities, through His Excellency the President, in order to place in a prominent point of view the suitability of this Island for the site of the proposed New Southern Observatory, and a favourable reply has been received and published. Application has likewise been made to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, through His Excellency Sir H. E. F. Young, for certain of the Ordnance Geological Maps of the United Kingdom, to complete an imperfect set now in possession of the Society. Sir Roderic Murchison, the Director of the Ordnance Geological Survey, and of the Government Museum of Practical Geology, has also been solicited to furnish an illustrative collection of rocks, minerals, and fossils, to form standards of comparison with similar specimens the produce of Tasmania; and despatches have been received and lately published here, intimating that the Plans and Maps of the Ordnance Geological Survey of the United Kingdom, and printed reports and publications connected therewith, together with a series of specimens from the British fossiliferous formations, have been forwarded to the Colonial Agent in London, for the purpose of being transmitted to the Society.

Two cases containing casts of rare and interesting fossil remains, amongst which are comprised two of the gigantic eggs of the *Eggornis* of Madagascar, have been received from the Museum of the *Jardin des Plantes* at Paris.

The Museum has been enriched with many donations of objects of a miscellaneous character, but of considerable interest and value. A series of minor trophies or relics of the battle fields of the Alma, of Inkermann, and the Tschernaya, &c., &c., have been received from Mr. Midwood, A.C.G., formerly stationed here. Mr. William Rout, of this city, has presented, in a large glass case, a very fine stuffed specimen of cheetah or hunting leopard of India. A complete list of donations to the Museum, and the names of the donors, are appended, as usual, to the Report.

The number of books acquired during the year has been considerable,—partly from purchases made, and partly from the liberality of Members of the Society and other persons. Amongst the former are parts in continuation of Gould's splendidly illustrated and beautifully finished works on "Birds of Asia," "Humming Birds," and "Mammals of Australia," Reeves' "Conchologia Iconica," and Hooker's "Flora of Tasmania," &c. &c.

The Museum and Library are open to visitors every day (Wednesday excepted), from 12 o'clock noon to 5 o'clock afternoon; the books in the Library are, during this interval, available to the public

for consultation. Members of the Society have exclusively the right to borrow books. Books containing valuable plates are not lent out. TASMANIA.

The number of visitors to the Museum during the—

Year 1854 was	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000
" 1855 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,096
" 1856 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,744
" 1857 it rose to -	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,443

Were there sufficient space in the Museum to admit of a proper classification and arrangement of objects, or even to allow of specimens being distinctly though roughly grouped according to their natural relations and affinities, its attractiveness to visitors in general would be greatly increased, while its utility and value as a field of observation for the student would be much enhanced.

The Council cannot but express their sincere regret that no step has yet been taken by the Government to give practical effect to the favourable sentiments expressed by His Excellency the Governor, when application was made by them in 1856, for a central site upon which to erect a New Museum, and an appropriation of a sum of money asked wherewith to begin the work. The subject has been lately again very strongly urged upon the Executive Government, and the plans and elevation of a spacious, elegant, and commodious building, expressly designed for the purpose of a National Tasmanian Museum, by Mr. Francis Butler, and presented by him to the Society, were at the same time handed to the Colonial Treasurer, and are still before the Government.

The purposes to be served by the establishment of a public museum are so entirely and exclusively for the benefit of the whole community, that the Council feel they need not shrink from importunity even, should this unhappily become requisite, to compass their object. The present overcrowded condition of the Museum does not merely justify the most pointed and pressing representations, but calls imperatively for immediate, energetic, and combined action on the part of all who are interested in its working or favourable to its objects; the Council look, therefore, to the Members of the Society and to the citizens of Hobart Town to strengthen their hands.

Such institutions become more and more valuable and important as educational agents as time passes and one age succeeds another, their advantages are equally open to all classes of society; no other institution, therefore, has a stronger claim upon posterity, while none ought to command a warmer sympathy or more cordial support from people of the present day, as no other offers to the general mass of inhabitants in a manner so free, or a form so engaging, its rich and varied stores for intellectual enjoyment.

Wherever civilization and mental culture are appreciated, such institutions reflect credit upon the country which possesses and encourages them. Museums, as public buildings, tend, when erected, to embellish a city; and during their actual construction and progress they yield employment to mechanics, labourers, and artisans, and give a lively and wholesome stimulus to trade.

The Meteorological Observatories instituted by the Government in 1855-6, at Hobart Town, Port Arthur, Campbell Town, Launceston, and George Town have yet only been completely in operation at the three first-named places. The Hobart Town tables have alone been printed; and the cost of printing them for the years 1856-7 will approach the sum of 100*l*. Important and valuable as these tables practically are, in diffusing a knowledge of the climatic conditions and character of this favoured Island, their publication must cease, and all the charges for the erection of Observatories, and all the attention and labour bestowed will have been incurred in vain, unless the Government make some provision to meet the cost of printing; the Council of the Society being without funds to defray such charges, no calculation of this nature having been made, and no arrangement or understanding arrived at beyond this, that the Society should not suffer pecuniary loss thereby.

The Council are, however, of opinion, that the Observatories may still be maintained, provided the Government will consent to the Meteorological Tables being printed, from month to month, at the Government printing office; a course which they would consider a most legitimate application of a portion of the operative labour of a public department to a great public object.

The Council think it not unbecoming in them, at the present juncture, to glance at the completion in the course of last year, of the line of Electric Telegraph across the Island of Tasmania, since it was at this table, and before the Fellows of this Society, that a project was first mooted and publicly discussed for establishing this and intercolonial lines with a view to their ultimate union with wires from India and Europe.

The proposal of Professor Wilson, and other gentlemen, having charge and direction at the Crystal Palace, Sydenham, to find a place therein for exhibiting the products of Tasmania, made to R. W. Nutt, Esq., M.P., and accepted by him on the part of the Colony, at a time when he acted as its accredited agent to the Paris Exhibition, has devolved on the Society the duty of collecting and preparing samples and specimens; and there are now accordingly accumulated in the Museum, and nearly ready for shipment, several fine pieces of ornamental woods, with samples of wheat, barley, oats, wool, &c. There are but few persons resident in Tasmania who, from peculiarities of taste, pursuit, and occupation, under the varying local conditions of climate and of physical production (indigenous or otherwise) dependent on them, have it not in their power to contribute something characteristic of the Island or creditable to its industry; to all such the Council earnestly appeal for co-operation and assistance.

Samples of the following articles would be most appropriate for transmission:—Dried or preserved fruits in glass jars,—grain of all sorts,—flour,—biscuits of sorts,—essential oils, of the blue gum, of sassafras, and of the croton shrub, so common in this vicinity; timber for ship-building, house-building, and for special purposes; fancy woods, timber adapted for wood engraving, red gum of the grass-tree, (*Xanthorrhoea*), gum of the wattle, kino or red gum of the stringy bark and other Eucalypti,—manna, bark of the wattle,—blackwood and other acacia, and of the banksia and other trees,—extracts, &c., for tanning purposes, dye-woods, bark and other vegetable products, for medicinal purposes, such as that of the sassafras, the berries and bark of the "native pepper," or *Tasmania fragrans*, &c.

Animal products, raw or manufactured; horns, hoofs, hair, glue, and oils of all kinds, wool of every description, furs, skins of wild or domesticated animals, dressed skins, leather, &c.

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Minerals; granites, greenstones, basalt, porphyries, lava, obsidian, and other eruptive rocks,—coal, bituminous schists, &c.—clay-ironstone, sandstones, marls, limestones, marbles, conglomerates susceptible of a high polish,—roofing slate, whet-slate, auriferous slates, auriferous quartz and quartz-sand fit for glass-making, such as is found on the granitic islands in Bass's Straits, and other mineral substances met with in peculiar localities and formations, such as Epsom salts, alum, common salt, metallic ores, &c.

The Secretary will, on application, afford all necessary information as to the kind and quality of articles most suitable, and the amount, quantity, or number of each, which ought to be forwarded.

The Council have but few remarks to make on the Society's Gardens. A catalogue of the plants cultivated in the Gardens has been printed and published, and it is proposed to publish a supplement containing the names of such plants as were then omitted or have been since added to the collection. The Gardens maintain the high character which they have so long borne for richness and variety of vegetable productions, and for neatness and order. The good taste of the citizens of Hobart Town leads them still to seek enjoyment in the picturesque beauty of the situation; it is still the favourite promenade to which the inhabitants resort by hundreds upon holidays. The register of visitors for the last ten years stands as follows:—

In 1847 -	-	-	-	2,287	In 1852 -	-	-	-	9,252
„ 1848 -	-	-	-	4,964	„ 1853 -	-	-	-	12,655
„ 1849 -	-	-	-	6,155	„ 1854 -	-	-	-	13,733
„ 1850 -	-	-	-	9,191	„ 1855 -	-	-	-	15,710
„ 1851 -	-	-	-	8,932	„ 1856 -	-	-	-	13,251

And during 1857 the number again rose to 15,214.

The condition of the Society's finances has directed the attention of the Council to the practicability of devising measures by which, while the fullest efficiency is secured in the actual working department at the Gardens, a smaller aggregate expenditure may be incurred, and the cost for effective labouring strength be made to bear a larger proportion to that for supervision than it now does.

The balance-sheet duly audited and now laid upon the Table, presents a gross expenditure of 1,238*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.*, to be placed against the aggregate receipts, amounting to 1,135*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.*, leaving a balance against the Society of 103*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.*

At the close of 1856 there was a net balance of 10*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* against the Society, but the bill of our London bookseller has been since paid, amounting to about 130*l.*, and it is not likely for some years again to reach the same magnitude. On the other hand, there will be a heavy charge to meet for printing meteorological tables, in addition to ordinary disbursements for printing the Society's Journal and Report, &c.

Eighty-four Fellows are in arrears of payment of last year's contribution—26 of them are in arrears for two years, and nine are in arrears from 1855. It has been the practice of the Council to remove the names of Fellows hopelessly in arrears, and they propose now to pursue the same course—reserving to themselves the exercise of a wide discretion in cases where there is a fair prospect of arrears being ultimately paid.

The Council do not expect that the income of the Society for the current year from every source will fall under 1,250*l.*, reckoning upon the liquidation of the major part of the outstanding subscriptions; and they consider that the expenditure for the same period can scarcely be reduced below that of 1857.

The receipts, expenditure, and the balance of the branch of the Society holding meetings in Launceston appear on both sides of the general statement of funds now submitted, and do not, of course, affect their relative amount, though the aggregate sum is materially swelled thereby.

The business of the meeting, after disposing of the report, will be to elect, by ballot, from the two lists now suspended in this room, of eight Fellows of the Society, four to fill the places of those members of the Council who retire in rotation at this season—namely, Messrs. J. Hone, the Hon. W. Henty, J. Allport, and the Hon. John Walker. The election of two auditors for the current year will follow.

Encl. 5 in
No. 33.

Enclosure 5 in No. 33.

PROROGATION SPEECH.

(*Queen's Arms.*)

Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly;

1. AFTER a Session which has been protracted in its duration, but which has also been fertile in measures of importance to the industrial and social progress of this Colony, I have now the satisfaction of relieving you, for a time, from attendance in Parliament. In doing so, I cannot withhold the expression of my congratulation on the results of your labours,—which are not likely to be surpassed in the compass of their objects, in their variety, or in the permanence of the benefits arising from them, by the measures of any future Session which we can now contemplate.

2. When the political Institutions of the Mother-Country were adopted, so far as they were susceptible of adaptation, in the Government of Tasmania, prudence and consistency required that they should be followed by the introduction of other institutions of that Country, which, although less conspicuous, are yet indispensable auxiliaries to their perfect operation. Of this character are the municipal and other local institutions which there subdivide public duties,—carry the principles and the modes of self-government throughout the whole framework of society,—and, by the opinion and the habits which they foster, afford at the same time, inestimable guarantees of public liberty, and a conservative barrier against political licence. You have lost no time in legislating with a view to the formation of such institutions, and where they already existed, you have enlarged their sphere of action,

and assisted their beneficial operation. I find that you have, in the Session of Parliament, which I now bring to a conclusion, passed no less than ten Bills of this description; namely,—

A Bill to establish Rural Municipalities.

A Bill to confer certain Powers upon the Municipal Councils of the City of Hobart Town and Town of Launceston.

A Bill to incorporate the Citizens of the City of Hobart Town.

A Bill to provide for paving, draining, cleansing, lighting, and improving the City of Hobart Town, and for promoting the Health, Safety, and Comfort of the Inhabitants thereof.

A Bill for levying a Police Rate in Country Districts.

A Bill to vest the Charge and Control of the Police Force of the City of Hobart Town and Town of Launceston in the Municipal Council of such City and Town respectively.

A Bill to enable the Municipal Council of the City of Hobart Town and Town of Launceston to execute the Common Lodging-houses Act within such City and Town.

A Bill to regulate the slaughtering of Animals, and Sale of Meat, in the City of Hobart Town and the Vicinity thereof.

A Bill to establish Marine Boards, and to vest in such Boards the general Control and Management of Ports, Pilots, Light-houses, and other Matters relating to Navigation.

A Bill for the Valuation of Property throughout the Colony.

3. I trust that the discretion with which the local powers conferred by the principal Bills I have enumerated will be exercised, will reflect credit on the Bodies entrusted with them, and tend to the advancement of the public interests.

4. At the close of the last session of Parliament I expressed my regret that you had not been able to devise any measure in respect to the sale and settlement of the waste lands of the Colony; but at the same time I intimated my acquiescence in the expediency of legislation being postponed on that question, in preference to its being dealt with in a crude or partial manner, likely to require future amendment. When I advert to the two Bills which you have passed in the present session, namely, a Bill for regulating the Sale and Disposal of Waste Lands of the Crown in the Colony of Tasmania, and a Bill to authorize the gratuitous Disposal upon certain Conditions of certain unsettled Waste Lands of the Crown in the Colony of Tasmania, and to the very general approval which their provisions elicited from the community after ample time had been afforded for their consideration, I am the more satisfied that nothing was lost by delay; and I rejoice to think that a question which still embarrasses neighbouring Colonies has been settled by you in a manner which is likely to be permanent, and highly favourable to the industry and enterprise of Tasmania.

5. The measures of law reform submitted to you in the present session may, some of them, be of a character which is not favourable to their popular appreciation; but, by those who are competent to judge of them, their importance and value must appear such as to demand special acknowledgment.

The Equity Procedure Act introduces into this Colony the progressive improvements which have been effected during the last thirty years in the administration of justice by Courts of Equity in England. It places a reasonable limit to the duration and expense of equity suits where necessary; and, by providing a summary mode of application to the Court, affords to trustees, and to parties beneficially interested, the means of obtaining without delay, and at a slight expense, the opinion and sanction of the Court in a variety of cases, in which, under the recent state of the law, a suit would have been ruinous, or, at the best, disproportioned to the value of the property forming the subject of the suit.

The Executors' Relief Act will not only, as its title implies, relieve executors and administrators from unnecessary liability, but will be a boon to families by removing objections on the part of individuals to act as executors, and by enabling them, under certain restrictions, to distribute the assets in their hands among legatees or next of kin beneficially concerned, without incurring the expense and delay of proceedings in equity for their protection against outstanding and dormant claims.

The Land Clauses Act embraces the provisions usually required in Acts authorizing the acquisition of lands for undertakings of a public nature. It secures that uniformity which is so desirable in the measures necessary to acquire and give compensation for such lands, and enables the promoters of works of public utility to obtain, at a moderate expense, the special legislative sanction which they may require.

The Special Jury Act provides for the selection of jurors of education, intelligence, and social position for the trial of cases of difficulty and importance, and will be welcomed as a measure tending to strengthen the confidence of suitors in that mode of trial.

By the Creditors' Remedies Act, a speedy and necessary remedy is provided for recovering in this Colony debts contracted by persons in other Australian Colonies, and then removing to this.

The Bankers and Trustees' Fraud Act supplies a deficiency in the law, by extending punishment to a class of cases in which criminal culpability might heretofore be incurred with comparative impunity.

By the Act abolishing the Office of Master of the Supreme Court, whose principal duties under the Equity Procedure Act devolve on the Judges, simplification and economy are attained in proceedings concerning very important interests.

I regret that the object of a cheap, summary, and satisfactory mode of recovering small claims did not appear to you to be provided for by the Small Debts Bill submitted by my Government.

The Trust Funds' Investment Bill, which is merely of an enabling character, by authorizing the investment of moneys on the security of the public lands and revenue, will meet in a satisfactory manner a class of cases in which it is difficult to invest trust funds of small amount on mortgage, and thus prove of advantage to those interested in such funds.

The Act amending the Law of Libel gets rid of what has been pronounced by high legal authority to be "a monstrous anomaly" in the state of the law, by which the truth was excluded in justification in prosecutions for libel, although the indictment charged the libel to be false; and it reconciles the law with the principles of public morality and expediency.

TASMANIA.

In the Electoral Act, while provision has been made which prevents the elector's change of residence from operating as a disqualification, the objectionable practice of nomination at a public meeting has been abolished, and thus a serious hindrance has been removed to men of solid worth and fitness offering themselves to public choice as representatives, and popular election is brought more under the guidance of rational considerations instead of being influenced by passion and excitement.

The amendment of the Licensing Act will be welcomed by a large class of persons on whom restrictions have pressed, exceeding those occasions for which their business has been subjected, in all countries, to peculiar regulations.

The General Sessions Act, by which the selection of the Chairman of Courts of General Sessions is delegated to the local magistrates, is in harmony with other measures of the session, which tend to reduce the province of the Central Government, and confide local functions and responsibilities to those who are most interested in their being satisfactorily provided for.

By the Pawnbrokers' amended Act, besides wholesome restrictions upon a business liable to be abused, the poorer classes are relieved from extortions to which their necessities have hitherto left them exposed.

The Amended Cross Roads Act embodies provisions which have been suggested by the experience of those who have carried out previous measures on this important subject.

The Act limiting the appropriation of the Land Fund has already received the approval of capitalists, and has exercised an influence advantageous to the Colony on the terms on which money has been tendered for debentures; and, at the same time that it has fortified the credit of the Colony, has deprived any Ministry that may be in office of all motive to an improvident exercise of discretion in the disposal of the Public Lands.

Gentlemen of the House of Assembly ;

6. I thank you for the Supplies which you have voted for the Public Service of the year 1858; and I assure you that they will be expended by my Government with a consistent regard to economy. The provision you have made for special objects of expenditure, by Acts authorizing the issue of debentures, will likewise be applied with care and prudence, and with a strict reference to the purposes for which you have designed them.

Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly ;

7. It is grateful to me, in meeting you on this occasion to prorogue your deliberations, that I am not required to do so before you have adopted measures with a view to adjusting the Revenue to the necessary expenditure of the Colony.

In so far as those measures relate to the Customs, the adequacy of the results to which we may look forward must be held to be uncertain, when you bear in mind that the necessity for the measures did not arise from increased public expenditure, but from the serious diminution which had taken place in the Revenue derived from the principal sources hitherto provided; a diminution, I have reason to believe, chiefly to be imputed to altered and improved tastes and habits in a great part of our population. I indulge, however, the hope that, as a whole, the financial measures of the Session will prove sufficient for the exigencies of the country, while I congratulate you that they have been of a character tending to remind those classes which have thriven under the protection of the Institutions of Government in Tasmania, that property has its special duties and obligations in respect to the maintenance of those Institutions, as to them property owes its very existence, and for it their cost is chiefly incurred. And here I must express the regret with which I observe the abandonment to a great extent, of those duties, in the growth of absenteeism on the part of wealthy proprietors. The evil, which is manifold in its bearings, has arrested the serious attention of my Government; but how to provide a remedy must be admitted to be a difficult problem in practical politics.

8. I am happy to learn that the general interests of the Colony remain in a sound and satisfactory state; and, under the blessing of Divine Providence on your measures, and on the spontaneous enterprise and the persevering industry of its inhabitants, I trust and believe that Tasmania will not be less conspicuous in whatever constitutes the solid prosperity and worth of a country than any colony in the Australian group.

I now prorogue this Parliament to Tuesday, the 20th of July next.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

No. 34.

SOUTH
AUSTRALIA.

No. 34.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor Sir RICHARD GRAVES MACDONNELL to the
Right Hon. Sir E. BULWER LYTTON, Bart.

No. 272.

Government House, Adelaide,
13th November 1858.

(Received 12th February 1859.)

SIR,
I REGRET that some changes in the Chief Secretary's Office, together with a prolonged illness of the principal clerk there during a portion of the current year, led to such frequent interruption in the compilation of the Blue Book Returns for 1857, that I only received the Blue Book a few weeks back. I feel, therefore, that, as similar delays are not likely to recur in the completion of the Blue Book for the present year, it will so soon become my duty to report again on the general position and prospects of the colony, that I believe it is expedient to defer for the present any very lengthened observations on the subject till the returns for the year, now nearly ended, shall be before me.

My report, moreover, on the Blue Book of 1856 was so full, and was transmitted so late in 1857, that a similar report now—especially if intended to be succeeded by a third within a few months—would be almost premature. It therefore becomes expedient to reserve, till a comparatively early period in the next year, the comments which I would otherwise have desired to make on the subjects least extensively treated in my last report. Amongst those, the most interesting would seem to be the actual and probable political results of the great constitutional change effected in 1856 in the government of this colony, together with the probable further development of its material prospects, whether viewed in connexion with recent explorations in the interior, the improved navigation of the great water highways to the interior, or the rapidly increasing general facilities for internal communication by roads and railways.

It is, nevertheless, desirable to connect the present with the past year by a comparative statistical summary of the most interesting details of each; and I therefore annex such a summary, and only regret that it is not more readable and clear in its arrangement.

I have, &c.

R. G. MACDONNELL,
Governor.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICAL SUMMARY for the years 1856 and 1857.

Population.

In the following table the estimated population on the 31st December 1857 is contrasted with that on the 31st December 1856:—

—	Males.		Females.		Total.
	Under 14 Years.	14 Years and over.	Under 14 Years.	14 Years and over.	
31 December 1857 - -	23,153	32,582	23,361	30,821	109,917
„ 1856 - -	20,941	35,323	20,942	30,680	107,886

showing an increase at the close of the year 1857 of 2,031. There has been no census taken since 31st March 1855.

SOUTH
AUSTRALIA.

The Births, Marriages, and Deaths officially registered in 1857, and in the preceding year, were as follows :—

	Year.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.
	1856	4,488	1,172	1,147
	1857	5,183	1,218	1,304

Vide also detailed statement *infra*.

The number of aborigines in the settled districts cannot be estimated with any accuracy.

COMPARATIVE RETURN of the Number of BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, and DEATHS registered in the PROVINCE of SOUTH AUSTRALIAN during the Years 1851 to 1857, inclusive.

BIRTHS.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Totals.
1851	1,405	1,354	2,759
1852	1,431	1,296	2,727
1853	1,401	1,373	2,774
1854	1,728	1,723	3,451
1855	2,054	1,890	3,944
1856	2,336	2,152	4,488
1857	2,640	2,543	5,183

MARRIAGES.

Solemnized	1851.	1852.	1853.	1854.	1855.	1856.	1857.
By the Church of England - -	37	517	591	463	99	488	493
" " Scotland - -	4	9	53	30	28	35	23
" Roman Catholics - -	20	61	113	137	145	201	260
" German Lutherans - -	43	49	90	75	68	85	90
" Congregational Independents -	43	47	56	90	86	66	58
" Wesleyans - -	31	24	46	44	79	118	114
" Free Church - -	—	13	36	49	50	70	48
" Christians - -	2	—	4	3	1	5	5
" Deputy-Registrar, Adelaide -	7	2	2	10	—	—	—
" Baptists - -	—	—	9	9	31	46	28
" Bible Christians - -	—	4	10	16	27	36	44
" Primitive Methodists - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	28
" Friends - -	—	—	2	—	1	2	—
" Moravians - -	—	—	—	—	1	2	2
" United Presbyterian - -	—	—	—	—	3	—	1
" Unitarian - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
" Jews - -	2	—	7	—	2	1	1
" District Registrars - -	—	—	1	2	13	17	22
	189	726	1,020	928	634	1,172	1,218

DEATHS.

Year.	Age.														Males.	Females.	Totals.
	Under 2 Years.		Under 5 Years.		Under 10 Years.		Under 30 Years.		Under 50 Years.		50 Years & above.		Age Unknown.				
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.			
1851 - -	278	261	25	27	17	10	81	58	96	59	35	26	—	—	532	441	973
1852 - -	301	256	31	37	19	17	68	54	86	70	34	34	17	4	595	503	1,098
1853 - -	333	305	93	77	32	29	72	71	106	70	40	31	15	1	691	584	1,275
1854 - -	411	357	51	61	20	22	65	74	86	74	64	39	18	4	715	631	1,346
1855 - -	472	413	79	61	28	18	88	108	112	107	61	51	48	17	888	775	1,663
1856 - -	332	278	29	30	19	9	69	71	82	56	73	33	54	12	658	489	1,147
1857 - -	394	338	35	40	20	8	94	83	111	69	71	37	3	1	728	576	1,304

NOTE.—This Return merely shows the Number of Births, Marriages, and Deaths actually registered in the Province; there are, at present, no satisfactory data for estimating the Number of those unregistered.

Compiled from authentic Official Records.

WM. YOUNGHUSBAND,
Chief Secretary.

April, 1858.

Pauperism.

Annexed is a Return of the number of persons relieved by the Destitute Board during the years—

SOUTH
AUSTRALIA

	1856.	1857.
In-door	638	406
Out-door	1,112	321
Country Dt ^r	82	96
Totals	1,832	823

Offences, Misdemeanors, and Litigation.

	1856.	1857.
Number of Convictions in Supreme Court	85	73
„ of Civil cases do.	129	139
„ of Criminal Trials, Assaults, and Misdemeanors heard and determined at Magistrates' Courts	428	552
„ of cases of Drunkenness do. do.	1,125	1,184
„ of Informations under Acts of Council do.	1,366	1,593
„ of Civil cases do. do.	4,201	4,424

No criminal execution took place in South Australia during 1857.

Diseases and Climate.

The numbers of patients admitted into the *Adelaide Hospital*, during the year 1857, were—

	Males.	Females.
Without payment of fees	314	267
With do. do.	73	9
	387	276
Total	663	

The admissions in 1856 were—

Without payment of fees	283	215
With do. do.	54	5
	337	220
Total	557	

Of those patients the number who died was—

In 1857	46	16
In 1856	57	26

The average duration of the stay of patients in the hospital was in—

	1856.		1857.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
In cases of acute disease	25	26½	22½	26
„ chronic „	105½	105½	107	132

The average daily cost of each patient was - 2s. 9½d. 2s. 1½d.

**SOUTH
AUSTRALIA.**

	Male.	Female.
The number of patients treated in the <i>Lunatic Asylum</i> during the year 1856, was - - -	62	47
Of whom there remained in charge on 1st January 1857 -	44	29
The average daily number having been increased by admissions, during 1857, to - - -	49.	35
The number of patients who died during 1856 was -	3	1
" " 1857 - - -	8	5
There were discharged during 1856 - - -	9	20
" " 1857 - - -	19	20

The average daily cost of each patient was—

In 1856	-	-	-	-	-	-	1s. 9 ¹ / ₂ d.
In 1857	-	-	-	-	-	-	1s. 1 ¹ / ₂ d.

Meteorological.

The extreme range of the barometer in Adelaide extended from 30·430 in May to 29·285 in June; the greatest range in any one month having been 0·920 in April, and the least 0·421 in February.

The extremes of temperature varied from 113° in December to 34.5 in September; the greatest diurnal range having been 47° in December and the least 3.2 in March.

Rain fell in Adelaide on 107 days in the year; the total fall having amounted to 20·149 inches. The greatest fall in any one month was 3·894 inches on 18 days in June.

The prevalent winds were S. and S.S.E. in the evening, and N. and N.E. in the morning.

Agriculture.

The extent of land under cultivation exceeded that in the preceding year by 32,542½ acres.

'That for 1856 having been 203,423 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres.

1856	235,965 $\frac{3}{4}$
1857	235,965 $\frac{3}{4}$

The harvest was by no means so favourable as that of 1856,—the wheat crops having been estimated as averaging only 12 bushels per acre, while that of 1856 was estimated at 18 bushels per acre.

The total comparative declared values of grain and other farm and dairy produce of the Colony, exported in the years 1856 and 1857, were as follows:—

1856.	Articles.	1857.
<p>£ s. d.</p> <hr/> <p>2,278 0 0</p> <p>300 0 0</p> <p>556,570 0 0</p> <p>169 0 0</p> <p>704 19 0</p> <p>377 5 0</p>	<p>Bacon and Hams - -</p> <p>Butter - - -</p> <p>Cheese - - -</p> <p>Corn and Meal - -</p> <p>Hay - - - -</p> <p>Onions - - -</p> <p>Potatoes - - -</p>	<p>£ s. d.</p> <p>24 0 0</p> <p>3,154 0 0</p> <p>911 0 0</p> <p>756,051 0 0</p> <p>2,969 0 0</p> <p>938 0 0</p> <p>155 0 0</p>
558,399 4 0		764,202 0 0

The following were the Adelaide prices of

—	Flour, per 'Ton.	Wheat, per Bushel.	Oats, per Bushel.	Barley, per Bushel.	Potatoes, per 'Ton.	Hay, per 'Ton.
1856	25 <i>l.</i> to 22 <i>l.</i>	9 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> to 7 <i>s.</i>	4 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> to 7 <i>s.</i>	3 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> to 5 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>	9 <i>l.</i> to 22 <i>l.</i>	50 <i>s.</i> to 70 <i>s.</i>
1857	15 <i>l.</i> to 23 <i>l.</i>	9 <i>s.</i> to 5 <i>s.</i>	9 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> to 6 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>	4 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> to 8 <i>s.</i>	6 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> to 18 <i>l.</i>	75 <i>s.</i> to 140 <i>s.</i>

The price of bread at Adelaide ranged :

In 1856 from 2½*d.* to 3½*d.* per lb., the average price being 3*d.* per lb.
In 1857 from 2*d.* to 3*d.* per lb., the average price being 2½*d.* per lb.

Crown Lands.

The area of land alienated in the years

1856 } was { 187,451 acres, } the proportion of purchase-money } 237,500*l.* 3*s.*
1857 } { 177,718 „ } received in each year being } 215,076*l.* 8*s.*

The land revenue actually received or due, arising from the sources named below, was as follows :—

1856.	Source of Revenue.	1857.
<div>£ s. d.</div> <div>237,500 0 0</div>	Land Sales - - -	215,076 8 0
17,542 0 0	{ Rental under Pastoral } Leases - - - }	17,854 9 0
2,574 5 11	{ Depasturing and other } Licences, and Miscel- laneous Receipts - }	3,485 10 9
257,616 5 11		236,416 7 9

The total area of land, without the hundreds held under leases, granted up to 1st July 1857, is - - - - - 24,737 square miles.
To this may be added the area granted under leases within the hundreds to same date - - - - - 1,399 „

Making the total area leased 26,136 square miles.

Stock.

The number of stock in the Colony on the 31st December 1857 was estimated as
2,075,805 sheep and lambs.
310,400 cattle.
20,220 horses.

Immigration and Emigration.

	1856.	1857.
The number of arrivals at Port Adelaide was	- 15,418	9,086
The number of departures	- 5,577	3,440
Showing an increase to the population by this means of	- 9,841	5,646

SOUTH
AUSTRALIA:

The number of Immigrants arriving in the Colony at the public expense was as follows:

	ENGLISH.		SCOTCH.		IRISH.		TOTALS.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	—
1856	2,288	1,971	114	120	433	351	2,335	1,842	4,177
1857	1,471	1,055	91	73	860	415	2,422	1,543	3,967

Revenue and Expenditure.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the REVENUE and EXPENDITURE of the Colonial Government of SOUTH AUSTRALIA (inclusive of Land and Emigration Commissioner's Accounts).

	Year ended 31st Dec. 1857.			Year ended 31st Dec. 1856.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
REVENUE.						
Sales of Crown Lands	220,984	7	0	231,023	0	0
Customs	151,667	4	11	152,135	19	3
Harbour Dues	1,982	7	8	2,048	4	1
Rents	21,523	9	9	20,790	2	0
Licences	12,794	15	0	11,222	15	0
Postage	10,353	18	4	8,925	11	6
Fines, Fees, and Forfeitures	15,299	15	11	16,112	3	5
Sales of Government Property	2,876	7	8	2,905	1	9
Reimbursements-in-aid	5,109	13	5	2,268	16	11
Miscellaneous Receipts	1,771	10	11	3,234	16	9
Interest, Exchange, &c.	3,816	3	7	2,262	12	10
Gold Revenue	—	—	—	9	11	8
Port Elliot and Goolwa Railway	2,176	15	7	2,646	8	2
Telegraphs	1,169	9	5	366	6	7
	451,525	19	2	456,001	9	11
Transfer Immigration Fund to Crown Moiety	—	—	—	60,000	0	0
Repayment of expenses chargeable to Immigration Fund	—	—	—	413	12	1
Balances from previous quarters and years	263,935	3	5	207,127	7	11
	715,461	2	7	723,542	9	11
EXPENDITURE.						
Establishments, including Schedule A, Parts 1 and 2, viz. :—						
Salaries, fixed	108,756	3	1	101,723	16	4
Salaries, provisional and temporary	9,171	7	10	8,738	6	4
Allowances	3,343	16	7	3,021	10	11
Contingencies	55,303	10	0	62,387	15	1
Pensions, Retired Allowances, and Gratuities	1,447	15	0	1,239	2	0
Public Works, Buildings, and Improvements	214,190	16	2	180,568	2	9
Miscellaneous Services	51,275	12	3	16,766	14	8
Interest on, and Redemption of Loans for Public Works	32,597	0	0	19,500	0	0
Interest, Exchange, &c.	97	4	7	219	9	9
Immigration	4,051	8	6	5,028	16	7
	480,234	14	0	399,193	14	5
Transfer of Crown Moiety to Immigration Fund	—	—	—	60,000	0	0
Remittances to Land and Emigration Commissioners	10,000	0	0	—	—	—
Repayment to Ordinary Revenue	—	—	—	413	12	1
	490,234	14	0	459,607	6	6
Balance in hand on last day of year	225,226	8	7	263,935	3	5
	715,461	2	7	723,542	9	11

Public Loan Account.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE, on Account of Loans for Public Works of the Colonial Government of SOUTH AUSTRALIA, during the Quarter and Year ended 31st December 1857.

	Quarter ended 31st Dec. 1857.	Quarter ended 31st Dec. 1856.	Year ended 31st Dec. 1857.	Year ended 31st Dec. 1856.
RECEIPTS.				
Loans—	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
City and Port Railway - -	—	—	—	36,000 0 0
Gawler Town Railway - -	—	71,550 0 0	85,100 0 0	164,900 0 0
Port Adelaide Harbour Trust -	—	—	10,000 0 0	7,000 0 0
City Water Supply and Drainage	30,500 0 0	—	179,700 0 0	—
	30,500 0 0	71,550 0 0	274,800 0 0	207,900 0 0
Balance of Loan Account from } previous quarter and year - }	30,550 8 3	—	—	—
Balance due to Treasurer on } last day of quarter and year - }	—	44,413 14 7	—	44,413 14 7
	61,050 8 3	115,963 14 7	274,800 0 0	252,313 14 7
EXPENDITURE.				
Balance due to Treasurer from } previous quarters and years - }	—	35,374 2 9	44,413 14 7	31,771 4 10
City and Port Railway - -	355 5 0	5,000 0 0	3,078 7 9	52,371 12 2
Gawler Town Railway - -	14,440 5 6	73,589 11 10	107,204 12 2	158,170 17 7
Port Adelaide Harbour Trust -	—	2,000 0 0	38,848 7 9	7,500 0 0
City Water Supply and Drainage	—	—	35,000 0 0	2,500 0 0
	14,795 10 6	115,963 14 7	228,545 2 3	252,313 14 7
Balance of Loan Account on } last day of quarter and year }	46,254 17 9	—	46,254 17 9	—
	61,050 8 3	115,963 14 7	274,800 0 0	252,313 14 7

Audit Office, Adelaide, 8th February 1858.

W. L. O'HALLORAN, Auditor-General.

Imports and Exports.

The values of articles imported and exported during the years 1856 and 1857 were as follows :—

Imports.

	1856.	1857.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Total value of, other than bullion or coin -	1,363,393 2 6	1,547,652 5 0
Imports re-exported - - -	267,373 4 4	214,388 0 0
Imports, consumed in Colony -	1,096,019 18 2	1,333,264 5 0

Exports.

	1856.	1857.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Total value of, other than bullion or coin -	1,577,572 8 5	1,925,790 0 0
Imports re-exported - - -	267,373 4 4	214,388 0 0
Exports, produce of Colony -	1,310,199 4 1	1,711,402 0 0

In order, however, to arrive at the gross import and export totals, the following values of bullion and coin imported and exported must be added :

	1856.	1857.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Bullion } Imported -	3,136 10 4	75,400 0 0
and coin } Exported -	88,168 0 0	32,782 0 0

SOUTH
AUSTRALIA.

making the value of the

		1856.			1857.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Total imports	-	1,366,529	12	10	1,623,052	5	0
„ exports	-	1,665,740	8	5	1,958,572	0	0

Of the above stated values of produce of Colony, the principal items (other than those classed under farm produce and herein-before quoted under head “Agriculture”) appear by the Customs Returns to have been

	1856.			1857.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Animals, Horses - - -	140	0	0	930	0	0
Bark - - - - -	2,345	0	0	3,162	0	0
Hides and Skins - - -	727	0	0	2,557	0	0
Metals, Copper - - -	248,460	0	0	290,739	0	0
„ Copper Ore - - -	156,351	0	0	141,285	0	0
„ Lead - - - - -	377	0	0	23,855	0	0
Regulus - - - - -	2,854	0	0	2,960	0	0
Plants and Seeds - - -	306	8	0	1,474	0	0
Tallow - - - - -	1,242	0	0	316	0	0
Wine - - - - -	156	0	0	531	0	0
Wool - - - - -	412,163	0	0	504,520	0	0

Shipping.

The number and tonnage of vessels entered inwards and outwards was as follows:—

	GREAT BRITAIN.		BRITISH COLONIES.		FOREIGN STATES.		TOTAL.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1856 Inwards - - -	67	39,079	307	59,457	23	8,205	397	106,741
„ Outwards - - -	18	7,397	332	79,337	36	17,476	386	104,210
1857 Inwards - - -	71	39,411	327	59,958	16	6,941	414	106,310
„ Outwards - - -	15	7,269	342	75,541	47	23,888	404	106,591

Education.

The number of licensed schools and teachers has increased from 147, with 6,833 pupils, at close of 1856, to 166, with 7,407 pupils, at close of 1857.

The cost of the education of those children averaged per head (official salaries included),

in 1856 £2 15s 9½d. per head.

in 1857 £2 18s. 4½d. „

of which the Government has contributed

in 1856 £1 10s. 3½d. „

in 1857 £1 10s. 2½d. „

and the friends of the children

in 1856 £1 5s. 6½d. „

in 1857 £1 8s. 1½d. „

The total sum expended by the Government for educational purposes was

in 1856 £12,230 0s. 7d.

in 1857 £12,861 2s. 0d.

The number of private unlicensed schools has never been accurately ascertained; but taken at 2-5ths of the whole number of schools it is estimated that in 1856 10,830 children, or about 8.5 of the entire population, were receiving education within the province, which number is believed to have increased in 1857 to 12,865 children, or about 8.818 of the population.

SOUTH
AUSTRALIA.

Postal.

The following Table exhibits the Post Office Business during 1857:—

No. of Post Offices.	Letters.		Newspapers.		Total.	
	Ship.	Inland.	Ship.	Inland.	Letters.	Papers.
110	299,618	634,932	307,975	541,971	934,550	849,946

The Post Office Revenue was . . . - £ 10,353 18s. 4d.
And the Expenditure . . . - £ 17,984 18s. 0d.*

* This Amount includes 13 Months' Salaries and 5 Quarters' Payment on account of Contracts.

Public Works.

The sum expended in 1856, through the Department of the Colonial Architect, on public works, buildings, &c., amounted to 62,030*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.*; but the total outlay of the Colony under that head was 335,313*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.*

For further details, and for reports of progress of various works in course of execution, see Report on Public Works Department annexed hereto.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.
Enclosure 4
in No. 34.

LUNATIC ASYLUM.

RETURN of the NUMBER of LUNATICS treated in the above Institution, showing the Sum Received for Fees, Amount of Expenditure for Medicines, Medical Comforts, Provisions and Light, Bedding, Clothing, and Sundries, from 1st January to 31st December 1857.

CLASS OF DISEASES.	Remaining in Asylum 31st December 1864.				Since admitted				Daily Average Number of Lunatics during the Period.	Fees received in	Amount received as Fees.	Amount of Expenditure for				Total Amount.	REMARKS.	
	Without Payment of Fees.		On Payment of Fees.		Without Payment of Fees.		On Payment of Fees.					Medicines.	Medical Comforts.	Provisions and Light.	Bedding, Clothing, and Sundries.			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.										
																		Deaths.	Admissions.	Deaths.	Admissions.
Dementia -	7	2	1	-	8	4	1	1	-	Jan.	£ 9 8 0	£ 33 18 0	£ 90 13 5	£ 12 6 6	£ s. d.	136 17 11		
" senilis -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	Feb.	27 10 0	34 11 6	78 6 3	-	-	112 17 9		
Mania -	22	18	3	1	10	19	4	5	1	March	10 9 0	36 18 6	82 8 4	88 0 7	207 7 5			
" puerperal -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	April	10 10 0	28 18 8	76 1 6	68 9 2	173 9 4			
" suicidal -	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	May	13 6 0	28 10 9	92 18 5	12 0 3	133 9 5			
Monomania -	9	7	-	-	6	1	1	-	-	June	23 2 0	27 7 10	91 4 11	26 0 0	144 12 9			
										July	40 15 0	29 0 2	97 17 3	49 0 0	175 17 5			
										Aug.	34 2 0	27 1 11	96 18 7	25 18 8	149 19 2			
										Sept.	16 5 0	24 16 4	102 11 0	28 4 8	155 12 0			
										Oct.	17 2 0	28 11 8	108 3 6	66 12 0	203 7 2			
										Nov.	16 9 0	22 16 9	105 13 9	8 13 8	137 4 2			
										Dec.	14 7 0	25 0 10	108 2 11	7 19 0	225 2 9			
TOTAL	40	28	4	1	25	27	7	9	35		233 5 0	347 12 11	1,130 19 10	393 4 6	1,955 17 3			
Deduct cost of rations for 12 servants											-	-	-	-	-	216 0 0		Daily average Cost of each Patient.
Total Cost for Lunatics											-	-	-	-	-	1,739 17 3		Annual Cost of each Patient.
																£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
																20 14 3	0 1 1½	

Adelaide, South Australia, 18th January 1858.

WILLIAM POPE, Superintendent of Lunatic Asylum.

SOUTH
AUSTRALIA.

Enclosure 5 in No. 34.

Enclosure 5
in No. 34.

REPORT by the COMMISSIONER of PUBLIC WORKS on the various Government Undertakings executed during the Half Year ended December 1857, including those of the Central Road Board.

SIR,

Public Works Office, 24th July 1858.

I HAVE the honor to forward, for the information of his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, a report on the Public Works of the province for the half year ended December 31st, 1857.

A reduced staff in the department of the Colonial Architect, and a great press of business out of doors, have, to a great extent, prevented that officer from furnishing at an earlier period the necessary details connected with the works under his charge. Considerable difficulty has also been experienced in procuring information from district councils, so as to include herein an outline of their operations. These causes have rendered unavoidable the long delay which has taken place in forwarding this report.

Before entering into the details connected with each branch of the works subject to this department, it is satisfactory to be able to state that the progress of permanent improvements in the province during 1857 has been considerable. The development of the telegraphic and railway systems has realized the expectations which had been formed with respect to them, and the extension of the main lines of road have been steady, although, when the large expenditure which annually takes place upon these channels of communication is taken into consideration, the amount of permanent benefit which results to the province seems very disproportionate.

The deepening operations of the harbor trust are steadily prosecuted; and it is hoped that before long vessels of large draught of water will be able to cross the bar without difficulty or delay. With reference to the waterworks, it can only be said that they are proceeding gradually to their completion; inasmuch as the practical value of the work performed will not be susceptible of proof until the whole undertaking has been brought to a close. The extension of the railway to Gawler Town has been accomplished, and a sum of 2,491*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.* paid into the treasury, being balance of profit after paying all working expenses on the Port and Gawler lines. The financial results of the present year will, it is expected, not be less than 6,000*l.* sterling. It is unnecessary to do more than refer to the traffic receipts of the Port Elliott and Goolwa tramway, as no new work in connexion with that establishment has been undertaken during the past half year.

The subjoined outlines of the proceedings of each department will doubtless be interesting.

Harbor Trust.

It is not easy to give a precise idea of the progress of the harbor trustees in clearing the river at Port Adelaide without a map. A description of their operations must therefore be rendered in general terms only.

The most important event in their proceedings has been the completion of the new steam dredge and barges in October last. After numerous tests and trials, the capability of this machine for ripping up the limestone crust in the bar was found satisfactory; in some cases penetrating and removing the limestone to a thickness of three feet.

The operations of the new dredge have been directed, since the early part of December, with considerable success, towards cutting a channel through the outer bar, the silt thus raised being deposited about 500 yards north-west of the entrance to the harbor. About 3,292 tons had been removed at the end of the year. The total amount of silt raised during the half year is 71,426½ tons, which has been generally landed so as to be available for the improvement of the streets of Port Adelaide.

A ballast wharf has been completed on the Government reserve, Le Fevre's Peninsula, and it being near the workshops the board's operations are considerably facilitated. The total receipts of the trust during the year have been—balance in hand, 9,497*l.* 19*s.* 7*d.*, received from Government 11,303*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.*, from other sources 832*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*; making 21,633*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.* The expenditure has been 15,702*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.*; 783*l.* 15*s.* 5*d.* has been paid to Government in the shape of harbor dues; and 5,931*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.* remained in the bank on the 31st December.

Waterworks.

The operations during the past half year have comprised the commencement of the river weir, the contract for which was let to Messrs. Frost and Watson for about 3,000*l.*; the tail dam, undertaken by the same parties, at 414*l.*; and the dam head of the reservoir, let to Mr. A. A. Gouge, at prices which will bring the cost to about 20,000*l.*

Other contracts, but of minor importance, have been entered into and completed during the same period, including fencing, casting iron pipes, building a cottage at the reservoir, making bricks, drain-pipes, &c. The contract for the last-mentioned articles which had been entered into has been rescinded, and will probably not be renewed until the plans for drainage are in a state of maturity.

The expenditure of the Waterworks Commissioners during the year 1857 amounted to 17,778*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.* As soon as the dam head, reservoir, &c. have been completed, the laying of the pipes (part of which have already arrived from England) will be commenced, and it is expected that the works will be in a sufficiently forward state to bring the water into the city towards the middle of 1859.

Colonial Architect.

The works performed under this officer's superintendence are so various and numerous that it is scarcely possible to do more than to append a list of them, with a statement of the cost of each.

With respect to the Glenelg Jetty, it may be remarked that a greatly increased expense has been necessarily incurred in consequence of the imperfect state of the structure as sent to this colony, and the bad quality of the materials used in its construction.

The total expenditure of this department for the year is 66,000*l.*, leaving a large balance for new works to be carried out in 1858.

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Magnetic Telegraph.

At the beginning of the past year there were only ten and a half miles of line open. At the close of 1857 there were ninety-four miles, with the line to the border rapidly approaching completion. The Gawler Line (twenty-nine and a half miles) was commenced in the middle of January, and was opened on the 14th of April 1857. The South-east Line was begun in April, and was opened to Goolwa in November. The working of these lines show encouraging results; they are not only capable of being self-supporting, but of yielding a good return on the outlay. The number of messages is more than double the number of those received in 1856, while the receipts have increased from 366*l.* to 1,183*l.* The telegraph department has been conducted satisfactorily, and the energy shown by Mr. Todd is most indefatigable.

Railways.

The operations on both lines during the latter end of 1857 were simply confined to the finishing of works in hand at the end of the first half year, and that from want of money for new works nothing was done beyond completing the line, then open to Smithfield, to its parliamentary terminus at Gawler Town.

The line to Levi's Wharf has not been laid down over the temporary bridge. This would have been finished some time back but for the non-arrival of some long timber from Melbourne. The expense of alteration and movement of the line will be thus avoided.

On the North Line the works for the completion of the railway to Gawler Town were so far advanced in September as to allow of opening the whole length of line on October 5th, since which time it has continued in an efficient and safe state for working.

The gross profit on the working of the Port Line in 1857 was	-	-	£	s.	d.
Loss on North Line	-	-	3,002	14	11
			610	18	6
			<hr/>		
			£2,491	16	5

The profit on the working of the railways during 1858 is expected to be about 6,000*l.*

Central Road Board.

The report furnished by the Road Board may be described as a list in extenso of all the contracts and different works let or undertaken by them, of which the particulars are subjoined.

The progress of the main road system during the period under review may be described as being as satisfactory as could be expected under present circumstances; although it is to be regretted that there are no means afforded of contrasting the works executed this year with those performed during preceding years.

The following is a condensed statement of the works performed during 1857.

North District.—Made new road 4 miles 14 roods 50 chains, at a total cost of 7,418*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.*, or averaging 1,774*l.* per mile; and 35 miles 41 roods 50 chains repaired at a total cost of 10,335*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.*, or an average of 291*l.* per mile. Total expenditure, 17,753*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.* General condition of roads pretty good, except Port Road.

North-East District.—Made new road 5 miles 78 roods 75 chains, at an average cost of 1,848*l.* per mile; repairs, 47 miles 60 chains at an average cost of 150*l.* per mile. Total expenditure, 26,054*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.*

South-Eastern District.—Made new road 7 miles 42 chains, at 15,047*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.* or 2,000*l.* per mile. Repairs, 20 miles at 337*l.* per mile. Total expenditure, 36,965*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.* State of roads good.

South District.—Made new road 6 miles 20 yards, at an average cost of 1,672*l.* per mile. 170*l.* per mile for repairs. Total expenditure, 24,787*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.* State of roads generally good.

The amount expended on public works in 1857 was 107,233*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* Salaries, office, and incidental expenses and contingencies, 6,333*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.*

District Councils.

Although these institutions are not subordinate to nor under the direct control of this department, their connexion therewith as district road commissions affords reason for including some notice of them in this report.

As their operations are scattered over a very wide extent of country, and their works, although numerous, generally on a small scale, it would not be possible within reasonable limits to remark upon the operations of each. It will be observed that the amount expended in salaries and office expenses is equal to about one seventh of the sum spent on public improvement. This may to a great extent be attributed to the multiplication of district councils, the effect of which is to increase only the expenses of management, without adding anything to the value or quantity of rateable property. It is hoped, however, that the year 1858 will show more satisfactory results, inasmuch as according to the resolution of the House of Assembly the measure of Government aid is the amount devoted exclusively to public improvements. I cannot, however, refrain from recording my conviction that it is generally undesirable to allow of the multiplication of small district councils. With respect to the table itself, I regret to state that I cannot place it before you as being absolutely correct. Every means has been taken in this department to verify the particulars relative to each council contained therein; but as out of forty-three district councils a large number of the returns furnished have been imperfect and occasionally contradictory, and have exhibited defects which it was not in my power to remedy or correct, the table cannot be looked upon as more than an approximation to the truth. There is no doubt that it is sufficiently correct for general purposes, but it cannot exhibit that minute accuracy which ought to characterise public statistics. While upon this subject I cannot

SOUTH
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avoid remarking, that other transactions of district councils with this department are managed in a way no less careless; and the large sum spent by the districts on salaries, &c. appears more disproportionate still when the loose way in which their business is managed is taken into account. I have entered somewhat fully into this matter in the hope that attention will be drawn to the subject, and proper remedies applied by the councils themselves.

I have, &c.

ARTHUR BLYTH,

Commissioner of Public Works.

The Honorable the Chief Secretary.

WESTERN
AUSTRALIA.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

No. 35.

No. 35.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor KENNEDY to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M. P.
(No. 56.)

Government House, Perth, May 13, 1858.

(Received July 20, 1858.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the duplicate Blue Book for the year 1857, and to offer the following remarks thereon.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

2. The actual revenue for 1857 amounted to 40,923*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.*, against an expenditure of 45,002*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.* The estimated revenue amounted to 51,000*l.*, and the estimated expenditure to 51,060*l.*

3. The actual revenue in 1856 amounted to 50,227*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, and the actual expenditure for the same year amounted to 46,990*l.*

4. It will thus appear that there was a falling off in the revenue of 1857, as compared with 1856, of 9,304*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*, while there was a decreased expenditure in 1857, as compared with 1856, of 1,988*l.*

5. It is necessary that I should offer some explanation of the deficiency of actual revenue received in 1857 as compared with that estimated.

6. Taking a comprehensive view of the transactions of the year, it will be observed that there is a gross deficiency of revenue as compared with the estimate of 10,000*l.*, the whole of which may in general terms be attributed to the defalcation of the Customs receipts; 8,000 of this arose as follows:

Surplus quantity of spirits taken out of bond in 1856 beyond the requirements of the year to evade the increased duty under new tariff; duty value	£ 4,742
Tobacco in same manner	2,142
Wines	150

Excessive estimate on tobacco	£ 7,034
	978

£ 8,012

The deficiency in the duties on tea, sugar, and ad valorem goods, will account for the remainder.

7. A careful consideration and comparison of the figures in the Blue Book for 1856 and 1857 will show that the deficiency in the latter year has not been caused by any decrease of consumption, but resulted from the measures adopted in 1856, when the tariff was raised on all imported goods, more especially upon spirits. This occasioned a complete clearance of the bonded stores of all imported goods, to evade the increased duties imposed by the new tariff, which came into operation in the month of August of that year.

8. It is unnecessary to comment upon the expenditure for 1857, which has been kept within the narrowest limits which the peculiar circumstances of the colony would permit, and has been as above shown 1,988*l.* less than that of 1856.

May 3, 1858.

Enclosure.

9. In corroboration of the views I have expressed as to the cause of the deficiency of revenue, and although it may not be strictly regular, I beg to append a comparative statement of the revenue received in the years 1857 and 1858 during the four months ending respectively on the 30th April 1857 and 30th April 1858. This Return shows indications of progress and prosperity, in every way most satisfactory, and exhibits an increase of revenue in the first four months of 1858 as compared with 1857 of 4,308*l.*

10. With the exception of harbour dues, which I am of opinion were over estimated to the full amount of the deficiency, land sales affected by the discussion of the proposed new regulations to reduce the price of crown lands, and post office revenue somewhat decreased by alterations directed by the Postmaster General in England, the other heads of revenue afford favourable indications of prosperity, more particularly the land revenue, which exceeds the estimate by a sum of 730*l.* Whether a comparison of the revenue received in 1857 be made with the estimates or with the revenue received in 1856, I think it is evident, as before stated, that the revenue of 1856 was enhanced, and that of 1857 depreciated, by the quantity of goods taken out of bond in June and July 1856 to avoid the increased tariff.

11. I may, in connexion with this part of the subject, state that considerable depression to the trading interest in 1857 arose from the then existing uncertainty of the continuance or extent of transportation to this colony.

12. The public debt of the colony amounts to 11,043*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.*, showing an increase upon the year 1856 of 2,356*l.* It must be remarked, however, that 1,296*l.* of this increase consists of sums due in the years 1855 and 1856 to Her Majesty's Government and to the Agent General, but not included in the amount of public debt in the Blue Book for the year 1856, in consequence of not having been at that time brought to account; and further, that an extraordinary expenditure which occurred in the year 1857 of 500*l.* for a printing press, and which will probably be covered by the saving on account of the public printing for the year 1858, prevented the application in the year 1857 of a like sum to the liquidation of the public debt. The deduction of these two sums (1,296*l.* and 500*l.*) will reduce the apparent increase from 2,356*l.* to 360*l.* I may perhaps be permitted to add that the increase in the revenue during the first four months of the year 1858, referred to in paragraph 9 of this Despatch, enabled me, in the month of April 1858, to remit a sum of 1,000*l.* to the Agent General, in reduction of the amount due to him, and that the debt of 1,326*l.* to the Western Australian Bank at the close of the year 1857 was paid off in January 1858, since which no further loan has been necessary.

PUBLIC WORKS.

13. No public work of importance has been undertaken during the year. The repairs of the immense extent of bad roads and temporary bridges throughout the colony have absorbed the sum of 2,200*l.* The Fremantle and Champion Bay landing jetties have been nearly completed. Large quantities of stone for metalling have been raised by convict labour, but funds are wanted to cart it out upon the roads.

POPULATION.

14. The returns show that the population is nearly stationary. Considerable numbers of the free population and conditionally pardoned convicts continue to leave the colony, and are replaced by free emigrants and probation prisoners from England. The comparative certainty which now exists as to the probable accession of both these classes has already produced most salutary results, and I am in a position to know that many emigrants who have foolishly left this colony, in the hope of bettering themselves elsewhere, would gladly return were the means at their disposal. While the temptation of gold-fields exists this migration must be expected to continue.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

15. The value of imports in 1857 has decreased by the sum of 28,406*l.*, which I attribute mainly to increased home protection, more especially in the articles of butter, cheese, bacon, hams, meat, fruit, wine, beer, and breadstuffs; while the exports have *increased* by a sum of 16,038*l.*, principally lead, timber, wool, and potatoes. The exports are steadily on the increase.

SHIPPING.

16. The amount of tonnage is largely increased, mainly by the mail steamers now calling at King George's Sound.

AGRICULTURE.

17. This important and principal interest is, I believe, in the soundest and most progressive state; horses, cattle, sheep, and pigs, steadily increasing, and the cultivators of land re-investing their profits in more extended operations. The increased production and consumption of breadstuffs is indicated by the erection of four new steam mills within the year, in one of which I am informed 17,000 bushels of wheat were ground within the year.

WESTERN
AUSTRALIA.

MINES AND FISHERIES.

18. The copper mines in the northern district are most promising, the ore shipped to England realized 30% per ton. Copper and lead abound in the northern district, and I have every hope of seeing ample capital ere long applied to the development of these valuable and natural resources.

19. The coast abounds in good fish, and whale fishing is highly remunerative.

20. I cannot ascertain, nor do I believe, that any specimens of gold have been found in the colony. Assertions to that effect have been made, but on no reliable authority that I can discover. I have no reason therefore to concur in the belief expressed that "gold will eventually be found in Western Australia to a large extent."

LAND SALES.

21. The amount received under this head during the year 1857 was 2,199% against 3,483% received in 1856. It cannot be expected that these sales will keep up without some accession of population and capital.

22. I am of opinion that the Land Sales for 1857 have been prejudiced to the extent of 1,000% at least, by the anticipated reduction in the price of crown lands from 20s. per acre to 5s., the natural result of which has been to suspend the operations of intending cash purchasers. Mineral sections of land in the Victoria district have been purchased to some considerable extent.

23. Many tillage leases have been taken out instead of the land being purchased, to enable the lessees to take advantage of the pre-emptive right of purchasing in the event of the price of land being reduced.

LAND REVENUE.

24. The Land Revenue shows an increase of 730% on the receipts of 1856. The increase under this head tends to decrease the land sales, and the advantages of pre-emptive right of purchase conferred upon the leaseholders, is in my opinion calculated to retard the permanent occupation and improvement of the country. The increase, however, indicates the growing requirements of the graziers.

POSTAGES.

Jan. 15, 1858.
Encl. 2.

25. The alterations established in the regulations in connection with the overland mail and other circumstances detailed in the accompanying letter from the Postmaster-General of this colony account for the apparent falling off.

ROTTNEST FARM.

26. This establishment is worked in the most satisfactory manner, and will I feel confident during the ensuing year prove more than entirely self-supporting. It affords the only effective or humane means of checking native crime.

LEGISLATION.

27. There is nothing under this head calling for any remark, beyond the general explanations which accompanied the Ordinances when transmitted for approval.

EDUCATION.

28. The public schools to which Government aid is granted are conducted, as nearly as local circumstances will permit, on the system of the Irish National Board, superintended by a board of gentlemen appointed by the Governor. The system works well, and affords general satisfaction. The annual report of the Board is in the printer's hands, and will be transmitted.

JUDICIAL.

29. I think the constitution of the Courts is inadequate to the requirements of the colony.

POLICE.

30. The force for the whole of this extended territory consists at present of 1 acting superintendent, 8 serjeants, 2 corporals, 24 mounted, 26 foot constables, with 13 native assistants. It is sufficient to say of their efficiency that crime of any degree seldom goes undetected.

CLERGY.

WESTERN
AUSTRALIA.
—

31. The ready sanction of Her Majesty's Government for the employment and payment of chaplains, of whatever denomination, for the instruction and guidance of the convict population is a great boon to the whole community.

CRIME.

32. The returns of criminal prosecutions at the General Quarter Sessions during the year 1857 show the following results:—

- 1 wounding with intent, &c.
- 1 arson of a dwelling house.
- 1 rape.
- 1 attempt at rape.
- 2 forgeries of bank cheques.
- 1 robbery from the person.
- 6 larcenies.
- 1 receiving stolen goods.
- 1 assault of the person.

15

33. Of the above, 14 were Europeans, and 1 a Chinaman. Of the 14 Europeans, 10 were conditionally pardoned convicts, 2 ticket-of-leave holders, and 2 free men.

34. Two of the number were executed, 6 adjudged penal servitude from 4 to 8 years, and seven to imprisonment from 6 months to 3 years.

35. A reference to my Annual Report for 1856 will show that in 1855 there were 56 criminals tried, and 7 executed; in 1856 there were 29 criminals of all grades tried before the General Quarter Sessions, while in the year 1857, now reported upon, there were but 15. When these facts are taken in connection with the increased number of convicts and the decreased number of re-convictions to the convict establishment and revoked licences, they afford unmistakeable proof of the success of the system pursued in the reformation of criminals in the establishment, and the efficiency of the means adopted to repress and detect crime when they are liberated. I can confidently reiterate my statement of last year, that "the general security for life and property in this colony equals that in any part of Her Majesty's dominions, and far exceeds that existing in communities of much higher pretensions." It is not only that such security exists, but the public enjoy a full sense of it. Though I have given my earnest attention to this important subject since I assumed the government, I confess the results have far exceeded my expectations, and place me under a substantial obligation to the officers to whose efforts they are attributable.

GENERAL REMARKS.

36. The doubts and uncertainty which existed as to the continuance of transportation to this colony in the early part of 1857, together with the depreciating tone of some leading English journals as to its resources and capabilities for a penal settlement, had an undoubtedly damaging effect upon the progress of the colony, unsettled the public mind, and impeded trade. The last six months of the year have witnessed the development of various resources since the doubt and uncertainty have been dispelled, and justify the belief that the colony has never before been in so sound or progressive a condition. A large quantity of the finest agricultural land has been taken up and occupied in the Victoria district, 500 tons of copper ore have been shipped from the same locality, some of which realized 38*l.* per ton. There is an acknowledged improvement and extension of business of whatever kind. I am informed, on the best authority, that the bank deposits have largely increased, while overdue bills have been still more extensively decreased, and that the profits of the Western Australian Bank from discounts indicate a substantial improvement in the extent and character of mercantile transactions.

37. I have only, in conclusion, to hope that you will find the various contents of the Blue Book for 1857 accurate and satisfactory.

The Rt. Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. E. KENNEDY,
Governor.

WESTER
AUSTRALIN.

Enclosure 1 in No. 35.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the REVENUE received in the Years 1857 and 1858, during the four months ending respectively on the 30th of April.

Heads of Service.	1857.	1858.	Increase on 1857.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs - - -	4,982 6 1	7,906 13 8	2,924 7 7	—
Harbour dues - - -	137 9 8	421 1 10	283 12 2	—
Land sales - - -	568 16 3	1,255 3 6	686 7 3	—
Land revenue - - -	3,820 16 3	4,323 0 7	502 4 4	—
Rents, exclusive of land - - -	33 15 6	31 11 0	- - -	2 4 6
Transfer duties - - -	55 16 0	51 10 0	- - -	4 6 0
Auction duties - - -	196 4 1	73 17 7	- - -	122 6 4
Licences - - -	1,898 0 0	1,905 2 6	7 2 6	—
Postages - - -	537 6 4	713 19 11	176 13 7	—
Fines, forfeitures, &c. - - -	330 5 9	259 19 1	- - -	70 6 8
Fees of office - - -	132 11 0	105 11 6	- - -	26 19 6
Rottneat establishment - - -	250 0 0	361 4 2	111 4 2	—
Sale of Government property - - -	103 11 0	37 16 0	- - -	65 16 0
Reimbursements - - -	214 1 4	215 16 6	1 5 2	—
Miscellaneous - - -	14 3 6	- - -	- - -	14 3 6
Special receipts - - -	152 1 6	73 14 10	- - -	78 6 8
	£13,427 4 3	17,735 12 8		
		13,427 4 3		
		Gross increase on 1857	£4,308 8 5	

Audit Office, Perth, May 3, 1858.

W. KNIGHT, Audit General.

Enclosure 2 in No. 35.

General Post Office, Perth,
January 15, 1858.

SIR,

I do myself the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of yesterday's date, enclosing a memorandum by his Excellency the Governor, upon the Post Office revenue for the last three years, and requesting my remarks thereon.

In reply I beg to state for the Governor's information that the decrease in the receipt of this department for the past year is mainly to be attributed to the measure which came into operation on the 1st of January of that year, for establishing a low and uniform rate of postage between foreign countries and this colony, by the provisions of which the postage on letters received from abroad was entirely abolished.

It must be borne in mind that the convict depôts which were in existence in several of the rural districts, and King George's Sound in 1856, were withdrawn in 1857, causing a considerable falling off in the official correspondence of the commissariat and convict departments, the postage on which was paid by the Imperial Government, and contributed materially to the receipt for 1856.

There is likewise a sum of 250*l.* paid by the commissariat included in the revenue for 1856, which strictly belonged to the previous year, and should therefore have been included in the receipt for 1855.

On the whole the Post Office revenue for the last three years appears to me quite satisfactory, especially that for 1857, when it is taken into account the considerable reductions that have been made in the rates of postage, the thinness of our free population, and also when compared with the receipts of the neighbouring colonies under this head, in the whole of which, notwithstanding the postal improvements effected of late years, the departments in question are conducted at a considerable loss.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. HELMICH,
Postmaster-General.

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

NEW ZEALAND.

[The Annual Reports from New Zealand for the Years 1855, 1856 and 1857 have not been received.]

PART V.

EASTERN COLONIES.

PART V.—EASTERN COLONIES.

CEYLON.

CEYLON.

No. 36.

No. 36.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir H. G. WARD to the Right Honourable
Sir EDWARD BULWER LYTTON, Bart.

(No. 3.)

Queen's House, Colombo, July 5, 1858.

(Received August 23, 1858.)

SIR,

It is very gratifying to me, at the close of my third year in Ceylon, to be enabled to submit to you proofs that, notwithstanding the disturbances that have prevailed on the neighbouring continent and the financial crisis in Europe, this island has continued to advance in material prosperity, that the revenue has steadily increased, that public tranquillity has been maintained, and that all classes of the population have witnessed with pleasure the progress of those public works which are at once the fruit of successful industry and the best security for its farther development. I cannot too warmly acknowledge the support that every useful measure has received from the councils and the organs of public opinions. The resources of the colony have been applied with remarkable impartiality to objects of general utility. If the demand of the European settlers for improved communications has been liberally met, the interests of the native population with regard to irrigation works have been not less liberally consulted. And it is to this equitable spirit, in a council where the European element so largely predominates, that Her Majesty's Government may attribute, under Providence, the peace and good feeling that have prevailed in this island during the last critical year, and the contentedness of its inhabitants. All have benefited largely by the changes now in progress, and all know that the maintenance of order is the first condition of their continuance.

2. I shall now proceed to bring before you the results of the year 1857, in the form and order observed in my previous despatches.

Finance.

3. The revenue for the year ending 31st December 1857 was, by the accompanying returns, 578,028*l.* 6*s.* 2½*d.* The Revenue for 1856 was 504,178*l.* 18*s.* 4¼*d.*, so that there was a net increase of 73,853*l.* 7*s.* 10¼*d.* in 1857. The revenue of 1856 showed an increase of 27,901*l.* 9*s.* 5*d.* over that of 1855; and that of 1855 exceeded by 68,231*l.* 18*s.* 6½*d.* the revenue of 1854; so that the annual receipts of the colony have risen in four years from 408,041*l.* 10*s.* 4¾*d.* (in 1854) to 578,028*l.* 6*s.* 2½*d.*; but there has at the same time been a large increase in the expenditure, which amounted in 1854 to 393,267*l.* 18*s.* 0¼*d.* and in 1857 to 535,803*l.* 19*s.* 4½*d.*, exclusive of 17,656*l.* 12*s.* 5½*d.* spent under the Surplus Fund Ordinances.

4. The principal heads of increase are explained in the Memorandum of the Acting Auditor-General, to which the figures in the margin of his statement refer. They consist of:—

	£	s.	d.
Customs - - - - -	7,279	5	1
Land sales - - - - -	4,296	9	10
Survey fees - - - - -	1,369	17	2½
Land revenue - - - - -	3,045	2	5
Tolls (bridges, ferries, roads, &c.) - - - - -	9,152	15	11¾
Arrack rents - - - - -	11,428	17	7
Stamps - - - - -	3,926	0	9
Salt - - - - -	2,666	0	6¾
Pearl fishery - - - - -	20,309	17	6

You will remark with satisfaction the large increase in tolls, as showing the utility of the roads and bridges recently opened, while the amount received for land sales and survey fees proves both the continuance of the demand for land and the greater expe-

dition with which the business of the survey department is now conducted. I have had occasion to remark in my correspondence upon the improvement in the salt revenue caused by the adoption of a better system of retailing salt in the Batticaloa district, and the Acting Auditor-General justly ascribes a portion of the increase to the facilities afforded by the Natande Canal for the trade in salt between Putlam and Colombo.

CEYLON

Expenditure.

5. The comparative statement of expenditure in 1856 and 1857 shows an increase in the latter year of 78,666*l.* 13*s.* 11½*d.*, including "Salaries" and "Establishments" and "Services." The one is the necessary consequence of the other, for there cannot be a large increase in the work done without adding to the means of doing it. You will, therefore, find an addition of 9,256*l.* to "Establishments," principally in the departments of the Civil Engineer* and the Surveyor-General†, and an addition of 69,410*l.* in "Services," which include 61,970*l.* in works, buildings, roads, bridges, materials, and stores, the two last of which appear under the head of colonial commissariat. The charge for "Establishments" also comprehends 2,300*l.* for an extension of the police force, which has been found indispensable, in the central and western provinces, to meet the requirements of the increased commercial movement, for the protection of which the native headmen were quite inadequate, and to fill the gap caused by the departure of troops for India. The new system is working most satisfactorily.

* £3,910.
† £1,600.

Surplus.

6. Notwithstanding these additions to the expenditure, there was a surplus of 42,224*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.* at the close of 1857, to add to former savings, the expenditure being 535,803*l.*, the revenue 578,028*l.* I do not include in this the expenditure provided for under the Surplus Fund Ordinances of 1856, 1857, amounting to 17,656*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.*, as this does not form part of the ordinary outlay, and is not a charge upon the revenue of the year.

Assets and Liabilities.

7. By the very clear statement of assets and liabilities prepared by the Acting Auditor-General, it appears that the balance in favour of the Ceylon Government, after providing for all existing liabilities, on the 1st of January 1857, was 259,638*l.* 5*s.* 11½*d.*, and on the 1st of January 1858, 269,856*l.* 17*s.* 1½*d.* From the first of these sums must be deducted 94,683*l.*, being the amount of *old* "Revenue Debts" held to be "irrecoverable," or "awaiting the decision of the courts;" and from the second, a sum of 87,954*l.*, being the corresponding item in the accounts of 1857. This leaves 164,955*l.* on the 1st January 1857, and 181,932*l.* on the 1st of January 1858, as the net available balance at the disposal of the Government, in addition to the ordinary revenue of the year. Having stated the surplus revenue of 1857 at 42,224*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.*, this addition to the reserves of the colony may appear smaller than it ought to be. But you will be pleased to recollect that the unexpended balances of the Surplus Fund Ordinances of 1856 and 1857 are included in the "Liabilities," so that the amount now stated is the balance actually in hand, after providing for all previous votes. 50,000*l.* were advanced last year to the Oriental Bank, as a loan, bearing interest at 2½ per cent.; and the Government has agreed to advance 50,000*l.* more, on the same terms, as soon as the deposit of Indian Government Securities to the full amount of the loan is completed. But this leaves an ample margin for works of public utility not provided for out of ordinary revenue during the present financial year.

Surplus Fund
Ordinance of
1856, 38,000*l.*
Do. of 1857,
64,000*l.*

Public Works.

8. The abstract of this department shows that the expenditure during the year on roads, bridges, buildings, &c. was 147,174*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.*, including 17,662*l.* 7*s.* 5½*d.* for labour under the Road Ordinance. In the year 1856 the expenditure was 115,908*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.* showing an increase of 21,265*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.* in 1857. Of this sum, 6,646*l.* were expended in opening new roads, 6,991*l.* on new bridges, and 9,557*l.* on new buildings. The upkeep of roads, bridges, and canals involved an outlay of 81,914*l.* The repairs of bridges amounted to 3,217*l.*, of buildings to 13,834*l.*, and the miscellaneous services to 7,654*l.* The principal buildings included in this return are, the new district court*, and the large additions made to the government offices at Colombo†, the new grain shed at the Custom House‡, and the conversion of Sir G. Anderson's market§ into a factory, the machinery for which has arrived, and will shortly be in full operation. The bridges comprise the Gampolle and Peradenia bridges, the cost of the first of

* £2,348. 18. 7.
† £2,766. 12. 8½.
‡ £1,119. 13. 9½.
§ £1,417. 16. 9.

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CEYLON.

which will so greatly exceed the original estimate that I felt it to be my duty to order a special survey of the work to be made by Mr. Churchill, whose report explains the causes of the increase very clearly and satisfactorily. The work is of the most substantial character, and the progress made affords every reason to suppose that on the 1st of January 1859 the largest bridge yet undertaken in Ceylon will be opened to the public.

9. The sum allotted for the upkeep of roads, &c. has been distributed, as required, over all the principal lines of communication, most of which are now in excellent order. The Kandy Road requires a large annual outlay, from the immense traffic of which it is the outlet. Considerable progress has been made in metalling the road between Colombo and Galle, and 7,000*l.* have been voted for the complete repair of that which leads from Kandy by Nuwera Ellia to Badulla. The road, as far as Nuwera Ellia, was in excellent order; but the 36 miles from the plain to Badulla were almost impassable for wheel carriages. Their repair has been carried on with great vigour, and by the close of the present year I expect that the whole 236 miles from Galle to Badulla will be in a state that will bear comparison with any similar extent of road in any other colony.

Ordinance
No. 17. of 1856.

10. In giving 147,174*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.* as the total expenditure on public works in 1857, I must observe that this applies only to works under the immediate control of the Civil Engineer. But the Surplus Fund Ordinance for 1856 makes provision for several important items, which must otherwise have been charged against general revenue; as, for example, 4,000*l.* for irrigation works (including those in the Batticaloa district), and 17,000*l.* for the electric telegraph, of which a portion, representing 10,000*l.* must have been executed in 1857, making 14,000*l.* in all, to be added to the total already given, which will then amount to 161,174*l.* The Surplus Fund Ordinance of last year, amounting to 64,000*l.*, applies to the current financial year, and not to 1857.

Survey Department.

11. The progress of the Survey Department, as will appear by the accompanying report for the year 1857, has been most satisfactory. The land sold amounts to 20,005 acres, out of 21,786 advertised, and the proceeds, by sales and fees, were 37,089*l.*, against an expenditure of 11,478*l.* If these results could be obtained with the very small means at Captain Gosset's disposal, and with a staff wholly inadequate to keep pace with the demands of the public, I cannot err in reiterating the statements made in my two former Blue Book Despatches, namely, that whatever additions be made to the Survey Department there will be ample employment for them during the next 20 years, and an equally ample return in pecuniary and social advantages. As a check upon litigation and fraud, an encouragement to industry, a security for the revenue derived from land, the increase of the Survey Department is a matter of primary necessity to this colony; and I can only express my hope that the liberal establishment voted by the new ordinance, and Captain Gosset's personal exertions while in England, may enable him to return here with a staff equal to his wants, and able to carry out improvements of which the island is only beginning to feel the benefit.

Education.

12. The annual report prepared by the School Commission gives, upon the whole, an encouraging view of the progress of education, and more particularly of the dissemination of the English language, in which most of the leading natives have acquired great proficiency. I should wish, I confess, to see more attention turned to this, and to studies of practical utility, than to Greek and Latin, which the Cingalese and Tamils have little probability of using. In this sense I almost regard the Government factory as an educational establishment; and I have seen, with great satisfaction, young men of the first burgher and native families entering themselves as apprentices, and already becoming familiar with the application of steam power, and the principles by which it is regulated. Some of the apprentices have been employed in putting together the iron lattice bridges sent out by Mr. Brotherhood, and the brickmaking machines, which are now in full operation; and they have acquitted themselves most satisfactorily.

Queen's House.

13. The accompanying reports show that both the Queen's House at Colombo and the Pavilion at Kandy are in good repair, and have required few additions. The verandah mentioned by Major Skinner belongs to 1858, not to 1857. It was much needed.

14. The customs returns show that there was an increase of 272,976*l.* in the value of goods imported in 1857, as compared with 1856, the one having been 1,916,559*l.*, the other 1,673,583*l.*, and of 474,004*l.* in the exports, the value being, 1856, 1,509,087*l.*, 1857, 1,983,091*l.* The revenue derived from imports and exports was:—

	£
1857	156,690
1856	149,397
Increase	<u>£ 7,293</u>

The exports of cinnamon fell from 909,033 lbs. to 887,959; while the exports of coffee rose by 161,447 cwts., the amount being 1857 - 602,266 cwts.
1856 - 440,819 „

Some portion of this increase may, no doubt, be ascribed to a more favourable season, and to the desire of the merchants to make early shipments, in order to avoid the export duty, which came into force on the 1st January 1858; but a large proportion of it must be put down to the greater breadth of land brought under coffee cultivation, which is increasing every year, the attention of the natives being turned in that direction by the success attending the larger estates, and an infinity of small holdings, especially in the neighbourhood of Kandy, being now planted with coffee, a practice unknown a few years ago. The increase in the imports of rice and paddy corroborates this conclusion, for the whole of the coffee lands are cultivated by immigrant cooly labour, and this again is fed by rice imported from India, the value of which rose from 609,304*l.* in 1856 to 718,672*l.* in 1857, being an increase of 109,368*l.*

Cash Transactions.

15. The cash transactions of the year amounted in receipts to 745,774*l.*, and the balance in favour of the Government on the 1st January 1858 was 196,095*l.* 15*s.* 7½*d.* including the loan of 50,000*l.* to the Oriental Bank, and a cash balance of 4,153*l.* 9*s.* 4½*d.* in the hands of the colonial agent in London. The amount of cash in the general treasury and the cutcherries appears to have been 80,134*l.* 12*s.* 8½*d.*

Pearl Fishery.

16. The pearl fishery of 1857 was remarkable rather for the abundance of the oysters than for the richness of their produce. The price per thousand was, moreover, reduced much below the proper standard by a combination amongst the buyers, the attendance being limited, and competition small. Indeed so successful were the chetties (native traders) in their league, that their operations were only checked by a threat to close the fishery unless something like the real value of the oysters were obtained. Being on my way from Trincomalie to Kandy at the time, though prevented by illness from visiting Aripo, I gave the Superintendent full authority to do this. But the knowledge that he possessed the power rendered its use unnecessary, the dealers having come sufficiently near to the Government standard to ensure a considerable return from the fishery, and the Superintendent wisely considering that the profits made in 1857 would attract a large attendance, and consequently cause greater competition in 1858. This is the only real remedy, for though the Government may prefer closing the fishery to sacrificing its property at half value, it is not at all likely that the oysters left upon the banks one year will be available the next. If of the proper age when the fishery begins, that is, from five to six years old, they have reached their natural term, and die off in the interim.

17. It was, under these circumstances, to the mass of oysters fished that the Government owed its receipts, which amounted to 20,364*l.*; 150 boats were employed, averaging ten tons each, and carrying 750 divers, with crews of 1,125 men. The total number of oysters brought on shore, including Government and divers shares (one third), was 32,453,053; the average per day, 1,411,002, and per boat, 19,983. Some boats, however, picked up as many as 20,000, 25,000, 30,000, and even 33,000 oysters, and a large number from 20,000 to 25,000 daily. The 150 boats were told off in two divisions of 75 each, and sent out alternately; and it was only twice that the rule was infringed, 90 boats having been employed. The immense mass of oysters brought on shore, amounting nearly to one and a half million a day, and sometimes reaching two millions, was very favourable to the buyers, the Superintendent being anxious to clear the kotoos before the produce of the next day came in, and prices consequently ranged from 7½ to 16 rupees, at which rates, however, a gross receipt of 20,364*l.* was realized,

CEYLON.

exceeding by 4,864*l.* the sum offered for the fishery by private speculators, whose proposals I declined, with the concurrence of the Executive Council. The management of the fishery was throughout most creditable to the Superintendent, Mr. Vane.

Legislation.

18. The session of 1857 was not closed until the 6th of January 1858, in consequence of the protracted discussions to which the Ordinance on Fixed Establishments gave rise. As the Bill has received Her Majesty's sanction, it is needless to recur to the points of difference here. No change of this description was ever more carefully considered; and though the increase to the annual expenditure of the colony is large, amounting to no less than 25,777*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*, the very general support which the measure received evinced a not less general belief that it was based on sound principles, and that the increase was called for in order to ensure to the colony an establishment adequate to its work. The largest additions proposed were in the departments of the Surveyor General and of the Commissioner of Public Works, and these were adopted almost unanimously. But, as it may be desirable to place on record the reasons given for what was granted and what was withheld, I append to this despatch the papers exchanged between the Committee of the Legislative Council and myself; and I beg to bear testimony to the fact, that, in the course of my parliamentary experience, I never knew a discussion involving so many personal interests conducted with so much moderation and good sense. The colony is deeply indebted to Lord Stanley for the weight that he has been pleased to give to the recommendation of its legislature, and I feel confident that the encouragement thus afforded to many deserving public servants will act as a stimulus to fresh exertions in the large and interesting field which this island presents to all who enter upon their work in a proper spirit.

19. The other measures of the session require little comment, though practically of much importance. The ordinances confirming the two supplemental agreements with the railway company, and regulating the establishment and management of electric telegraphs, mark a change in the position and prospects of Ceylon which few would have been sanguine enough to anticipate ten years ago. The one will provide for the conveyance of its staple produce to the port of shipment at half the present cost; the other will make Galle eventually the port of call for the whole Indian trade, by bringing it into contact with Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay. The telegraph is now completed as far as Kandy, and will reach Manaar before the end of the year. The railway works begin on the 29th of July.

20. The Act for promoting the construction of branch roads by "Grants in Aid" applies to estates having an interest in a common line of communication, the machinery which has worked so satisfactorily in its application to native or other landowners having a common interest in the supply of water for a particular district. It enables them to hold meetings, and to assess themselves by the vote of the majority for such a share of the expenditure as will entitle them to Government aid. Several meetings have already been held under this Act in the planting districts, and I have little doubt that it will be largely used.

21. The Supplementary Supply Bill of 1857, by which an expenditure of 82,050*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* incurred upon the sole responsibility of the Governor was sanctioned without a dissentient voice, requires some explanation. The circumstances attending it are fully stated in my speech on the third reading of the Bill, which I have the honour to enclose. My justification in assuming so great a responsibility consisted in the fact that the "actual" had exceeded the "estimated" revenue of the year to so great an extent that a large surplus had become available for local improvements, which were urgently required, but must have been deferred for eighteen months had I waited to take a vote upon estimates properly prepared in the ensuing session. The proof that my intervention was in perfect harmony with the public feeling will be found in the accompanying addresses, signed by nearly every planter in the central province, as well as by the leading merchants of Colombo. But the experiment is not one that ought to be repeated, and I have much pleasure in stating that the liberal expenditure provided for in the estimates of the current year and under the surplus fund vote will make the Supplementary Supply Bill of 1858 one of the smallest upon record.

22. The Surplus Fund Ordinance, No. 17, is the last to which I need allude. It provides for an outlay of 64,000*l.*, in addition to the ordinary expenditure of 1858; 7,000*l.* of which are appropriated to irrigation works; 6,100*l.* to salt stores at Putlam, to be built in conformity with the recommendation of the Commissioners of the Board of Audit in England and of the Commission upon the Salt Revenue here; 5,000*l.*

for the prolongation to Mutwall of the Negombo Canal (which communicates with Putlam); 5,000*l.* for a new court of requests at Hulfsdorp, corresponding with the district court erected last year; 4,700*l.* for the drainage of the Pettah; 3,500*l.* for the improvement of the road between Kandy and Jaffna; and 8,000*l.* for officers' quarters at Colombo and Galle, the want of which has become most urgent, from the rapid appropriation of the private house property in the two forts to mercantile purposes. All these are objects of primary importance to the colony; and the best proof that my proposals were framed with impartiality, and with a due sense of what was required, is that the whole of them were adopted unanimously, both in the council and in the committee to which the Bill was referred.

23. I have now, Sir, submitted to you proofs that this colony is in a healthy and progressive state. Its liabilities are exceedingly small; it has no debt; its revenue increases year by year, and responds to the outlay upon public works. Whatever tends to develop the resources of the island yields immediate fruit. If large sums have been spent upon roads and bridges in the last three years, the tolls show an increase of 9,644*l.* 19*s.* in 1857 as compared with 1856. If the Kandy Road cost annually 15,000*l.* in upkeep, it contributes 28,588*l.* to the revenue. If 4,000*l.* have been voted for the Batticaloa Irrigation Works in the year 1858, I can show that in 1857 the land sales more than covered the entire outlay upon the works, the one being 1,447*l.*, the other 1,544*l.* Perhaps, as the matter has strictly reference to the expenditure of 1857, I may be permitted to append to this report the copy of a despatch addressed to Mr. Labouchere after visiting Ericamaam in January 1858, and some extracts from a letter subsequently received from Mr. Birch, the district judge of Batticaloa, by which you will perceive the immense benefit conferred upon the district by the restoration of the Dutch reservoirs, even in their present imperfect state. I saw, myself, in January 1858, a lake nine miles in circumference, and containing nineteen millions of cubic yards of water, where I had left a swampy plain in February 1857, too wet for cultivation, too dry to supply water to the rice-growing pattoos upon the coast. The opening of this lake, at a moment when the ground was parched by four months of uninterrupted drought, has secured the June irrigation of one of the finest rice crops ever known, nine tenths of which must have been lost without this timely aid. The crop is estimated at 185,000 bushels, of which the natives declare that not 5,000 would have been saved. Its value, on the most moderate computation, is 10,000*l.*; and though the Government will derive no immediate increase of revenue from the preservation of the crop, I regard this as rather a fortunate circumstance, since the pecuniary advantages secured to the landowners by the irrigation works will remove all difficulties with regard to the Government tenth, when we come to the new commutation in 1860, and will, undoubtedly, lead to a large investment of fresh capital in land. I look, therefore, to the early repayment of the Government advances, which will amount at the close of the present year to about 7,000*l.*, and to a considerable revenue in perpetuity from a district which for the last thirty years has produced nothing at all.

24. In addressing Lord Stanley, for whom this despatch was intended, I ventured to appeal to his personal acquaintance with Ceylon to corroborate my statement that this is but one of many instances in which the fostering hand of the Government is alone required to develop resources that have been too long overlooked. In attempting this, I must now solicit the same support and encouragement from you, Sir, that I have received from all your predecessors since it pleased Her Majesty to intrust me with the government of Ceylon. I can do nothing without your confidence and aid; with them no man can desire a nobler field. It is the fashion to accuse the native population of apathy and sloth, because they are slow to embark in branches of industry foreign to their habits, and distasteful to them from the restraints imposed. But take them upon their own ground, encourage them to do what their forefathers did when Ceylon was the granary of the East; consult their ancient customs, many of which are founded upon the nicest appreciation of the duties devolving upon each member of a community, where co-operation is the secret of success, since it is upon the supply of water that the crop of a district depends, and this cannot be secured without the joint labour of all concerned; and you will find these apathetic men full of intelligence, capable of the most persevering efforts, and grateful for the smallest assistance. As an illustration of this, I annex a despatch upon the state of Orwah, addressed to Mr. Labouchere, at the close of my southern tour, showing the impulse given to an important portion of the old Kandian kingdom by the Irrigation Act*, which, when properly worked, I believe to be one of the most useful measures ever passed by this legislature. Throughout the southern province, the same wants and the same desire for opportunities of improvement prevail; and the apathy, I say it with regret, is to be found rather on the part of the Government

* No. 9. of 1856.

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than on that of the people. We have not done our duty in this matter by the population committed to our charge; we have not understood their character or their wants. The works upon which the success or failure of eastern agriculture depends cannot be undertaken without Government assistance. Their maintenance requires constant watchfulness and some annual outlay, for which our predecessors the Dutch provided amply, and were amply repaid by the increased productiveness of districts which have relapsed into sterility under our rule. In the eastern province we are simply following in their footsteps. In the southern province, I feel confident that the reports which I shall shortly have the honour of submitting to you will satisfy you that we must do the same, if we wish to redeem the injury inflicted by past indifference. And I cannot bring this despatch, intended as it is to lay before Her Majesty's Government a faithful picture of the state of Ceylon, to a more useful close than I shall do by recording my conviction, after an experience of three years, that it is only by extending to native interests the same attention and encouragement that we pay to those of our own countrymen that we shall ever realise the benefits that ought to be derived from British rule.

25. Happily there is no incompatibility between the two, and no lack of means to do justice to both. The vast interests which British energy and capital are creating in the interior furnish the readiest market for every article that the industry of the low country can produce. What is wanted is good local information, a knowledge of the field upon which we have to work, and improved communication to turn its natural advantages to account. In some branches of industry the identification of interests is already complete. It will be so in all, when the system that I have attempted to delineate is fully carried out; and the Queen's Government may rest assured, that in urging upon its attention the necessity of increased expenditure in the Survey Department, in roads, bridges, and irrigation works, I am but supplying the links of that chain which will unite all classes of Her Majesty's subjects most firmly to the Crown, by the ties of a common interest rightly understood.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. WARD.

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No. 37.

No. 57.

EXTRACT of DESPATCH from Governor Sir JOHN BOWRING to the Right Hon. HENRY LABOUCHERE, M.P.

Government Offices, Victoria, Hong Kong, March 25, 1858.
(Received May 21, 1858.)

I HAVE the honour to lay before you the Blue Book of this colony for 1857, and to call your attention to the observations thereon of the Acting Colonial Secretary, who has during the past year rendered very valuable and active service in bringing about a state of things which I hope will be deemed satisfactory, while at the same time I venture to state that various changes now in progress or in contemplation will add to the financial prosperity, and advance the good government of this growing and improving settlement.

It may well be a subject of congratulation that with so little, and I hope it will ultimately prove with no pecuniary sacrifice, we have passed through a crisis which warranted much anxiety and apprehension. If the Executive was armed with strong powers for the defence and protection of the colony, I may well aver these powers have been used with moderation, that the ordinary course of judicature has not been interrupted, that the public tranquillity has been admirably preserved, and that substantial meliorations in most of the departments of administration have signalized the period on which I have now to report.

If the claims to some imperial grant as compensation for heavy charges imposed on the colony for imperial purposes shall be recognized by Her Majesty's Government, our public works will be carried on with an activity which local resources will not allow. Our market system is undergoing a thorough revision, and new and convenient market

places are being erected by means we have been enabled to provide. The docks at HONG KONG.
Aberdeen (a private enterprise) are rapidly progressing. The praya or quay is already making great advances in the part of the city where the Chinese population have had principally to be dealt with, and I hope the time is not distant in which the resistance of the opulent European merchant will be subjugated without any demand upon the British treasury for carrying on this very important work.

It would be a source of gratification to me if the liberality of Parliament, on the recommendation of Her Majesty's Government, would enable me to construct a prison more efficient for discipline and security, more in harmony with the intelligence and benevolence of our times, more adapted to the necessities of a rapidly growing population; and as our gaols are the recipients not only of the criminals of the island but of the offenders collected all along the coast, and sent by the different consulates for punishment to Hong Kong, I cannot but hope that we may be relieved from a portion of the charges which are not entailed upon us for local but for national purposes.*

So, again, as regards proper buildings for the magistracy, and for the supreme court, and all offices connected with the administration of justice. This island provides and pays for all the machinery of appeal and superintendence associated with our vast trading interests in China. These interests supply nearly one eighth of the whole revenues of Great Britain and British India; on an average scarcely less than ten millions sterling. Those revenues may naturally be expected to come to our aid, as this colony contributes so largely to their creation and protection.

Our civil hospital†, now in a very unsatisfactory state, has a somewhat similar claim. Hong Kong, independently of its own commerce, is the calling place of the ships of all nations, the central point from which vast relations are directed, so that its harbour and its streets are crowded with strangers.

Following the course which is adopted in the letter of the Acting Colonial Secretary, I would observe, that in the past year the character of the legislature has been greatly improved, and established on broader basis by the augmentation of the number of its members, while from the beginning of the present year publicity has been given to its proceedings by publishing an analysis in the Government Gazette. I propose to extend these reports into greater details, and hope Her Majesty's Government will in the course of the present year consent to the admission of the public to the debates of the council.‡

As regards the ordinances and notifications reported in the Blue Book, I think the stringency of several, called for in the peculiar circumstances of the colony, may now safely be lessened; while at the same time I cannot but state that the severest of the checks which it was deemed necessary to impose have met with the general approval of the inhabitants, not excepting the respectable part of the native population, upon whom, on the Chinese continent, far heavier restrictions are habitually placed. From the 1st of April the right of the Chinese to circulate in the streets without passes will be extended from eight to nine o'clock p.m.; but the maintenance of the power to interdict nocturnal rambles is a cheap, efficacious, and even popular measure, and one quite in conformity with the local legislation of the Chinese. With reference especially to the Registration Ordinance, No. 6 of 1857, I consider many of its experimental provisions wholly to have failed. I surrendered my own judgment to some extent when I consented to the passing this Ordinance; but there was a strong feeling that some system of registration would add greatly to the public security. I concur with Mr. Bridges in thinking that it is as impracticable to register a population like ours as to hold mercury between the fingers.

I reserve my opinion as to the operation of the Venereal Disease Ordinance, though I am, on the whole, disposed to think favourably of its action, with the special attention Mr. Bridges has kindly given to the subject.

With reference to the finances of the colony, you will observe generally, that if the expenditure (mainly for public works) has been considerably increased, the resources have been augmented in adequate proportion; and while the demands for outlay will for the most part be of a transitory and temporary character, the increased income is likely to be permanent and substantial. Though it is undoubtedly my desire to expend considerable sums upon public buildings and improvements, I will take care that no embarrassments shall be created; and, unless circumstances wholly unanticipated should arise, no claims shall, without your sanction, be made on the imperial treasury.

* £5,000 out of the £10,000 voted by Parliament will be applied to the building and re-arrangement of the gaols.

† £2,000 will also be applied to the hospital out of the Parliamentary grant.

‡ Note.—The public are now admitted to the Legislative Council Chamber during the debates.

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As regards our income, I have been enabled to reduce the police rates from 10 to 8½ per cent., in consequence of the increased value of property on the island, which has, with the augmented rate (upon the original 5 per cent. as before levied), enabled me nearly to accomplish the desirable object of paying from the police rate all the charges of police. I have also been enabled from the augmented returns of the lighting rate to increase the number of lamps from 250 to 350.

Most of the now available land in the colony, especially that having sea frontage, having been disposed of, I cannot look to premiums on future sales of land as an important aid to our revenues. It is, however, to be anticipated that the building of docks and other attractions on the south side of the island, will bring us some resources from that quarter.

I have little doubt the opium monopoly, under the new arrangements reported by this mail, will give us at the least an increase of from 5,000*l.* to 6,000*l.* a year.

Though it is not possible to estimate the augmentation of income likely to result from the proposed changes in the market system, there is every reason to believe that while the public will be relieved from the oppression of an intolerable monopoly, the treasury will be considerably benefited.

It may also be fairly expected that from no longer allowing the public monies to be dormant in the strong vault, but by using the chartered banks for the deposit of our balances, there will be a considerable receipt in the shape of interest.

We have now under consideration the system of licensing taverns and other places of public entertainment, and hope to improve the existing arrangements, and thereby also to serve the revenue.

With regard to the police*, I am quite alive to its many defects, and the desirableness of increasing its activity and efficiency; but we have very indifferent materials for constructing a thoroughly satisfactory corps. Europeans, under the influence of the climate, so easily fall into habits of intoxication and other irregularities; the mixed races, to whom we must principally look, are tainted with so many oriental vices; the inquiries I instituted as to the aptitudes of the Malays, and the practicability of importing a body of them with their families, were very discouraging; while the Chinese population is almost universally so mendacious and corrupt as to render them for the most part wholly untrustworthy; these, and other practical difficulties, entitle any shortcomings to be regarded with leniency. But I have found a general concurrence in the opinion that in the last year there has been a very marked improvement, both in the appearance and in the real value of the police. The augmentation of its numbers during the period of our greatest anxieties and perils enabled the Superintendent, as it returned to its normal state, to root out many of its most defective members.

It is due to Mr. Bridges to say, that he has been specially active in his attention to this important arm and instrument of Government.

In the opinions conveyed to you by Mr. Bridges, as to the improved management of the jail under Mr. Inglis' governorship, I most heartily concur. He appears to me to be doing all that he can in the present inappropriate and ill-constructed edifice. Your views with respect to the construction of a new gaol will, of course, influence my decision, as to the suggestion of the Acting Colonial Secretary, for the future appropriation of the present building to prisoners under short sentences.

Under the Surveyor General's Department I have little to add to the remarks of Mr. Bridges. The expenditure which is applicable to public works must mainly depend upon the balance which the cost of fixed establishments and other absolutely necessary outlays may leave at the disposal of the Government. Charges of an uncertain character must necessarily be provided for, though they can scarcely be approximately estimated. Our buildings, roads, drains, watercourses, bridges, and public works of every description are so much affected by the fluctuation of the seasons, by typhoons and storms, and the fierce elements which the tropics bring into irresistible activity, added to the entire dependence of the colony on foreign supply for most of the materials of construction (except granite, of which we possess a superfluity), that much uncertainty must attend the expenditure of the Surveyor General's Department.

I attach great importance to the question of an adequate water supply. Though the island owes its very name to the reputation of its waters, the vast increase of population, the enormous demands for the shipping, and the insufficiency of present arrangements (though much has been done) to provide a sufficiency of water, all serves to show that measures for providing for the necessity of the case should have early attention, which I will not fail to give.

* £3,000 out of the Parliamentary grant is applied to police and gaol expenses.

The growth of the native population, a growth still likely to progress, makes the services of the Registrar General and protector of the Chinese more and more important. The Chinese houses in the city are not only crowded but crammed, while the increasing proportion of females to males shows tendencies of the most encouraging character. It is impossible to walk through our streets without observing a marked improvement in the domestic comforts as in the dress of the people. Localities where there were a few years ago nothing but rude and ragged shantees are now being covered with respectable dwellings of bricks and stone. Shops exhibit undoubted evidence of progress and prosperity ; and I observe many of the respectable shopkeepers of Canton establishing themselves among us. The prejudices against the colony are gradually wearing away ; and, notwithstanding very many uncorrected and not easily traceable abuses, I think there is among the Chinese a strengthening confidence in the integrity of the higher officials, in the due administration of justice, and in the protection of the inhabitants against arbitrary and despotic acts.

If we could ensure the retention of the services of the present Colonial Surgeon, I should be well satisfied with the present arrangements, except that I think Dr. Menzies is inadequately paid. I have great pleasure in reporting my thorough approval of the manner in which the duties of the Colonial Surgeon have been lately discharged.

You will observe a great defalcation in the quantity of mercantile shipping which entered the harbour in 1857 as compared with 1856.

	1856.		1857.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
Entered - -	2,091	811,307	1,070	541,063
Decrease - -	- -	- -	1,021	270,244

This is principally to be attributed to the stoppage of the river trade with Canton, which employs ordinarily many steamers, whose frequent voyages greatly add to the amount of the return.

Public education has taken an important stride in the course of the past year, but this I hope is only an introduction to a far greater advance. I have personally visited many of the schools, and observed a very marked improvement. We have lent the services of the inspector, W. Lobscheid, for a short time, to the allied authorities at Canton, where his knowledge of the local idiom cannot but be very useful.

I have to add that, by the Colonial Treasurer's report, there will remain to us from the services for the year 1856 a balance of about 4,700*l*.

EXTRACT of a REPORT from Mr. BRIDGES (Acting Colonial Secretary) to Governor Sir J. Bowring.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoria, Hong Kong,
March 20, 1858.

I HAVE the honour to lay before your Excellency the Blue Book for 1857. It contains the details of perhaps the most remarkable year in the history of this colony, and it will not be impertinent to advert to some of the more prominent events before remarking in detail upon the several establishments.

The commencement of 1857 found Hong Kong, in consequence of recent occurrences at Canton, suffering under a panic among the foreign residents, and an apparent intention on the part of all the more respectable part of the Chinese to return to the mainland. The almost universal poisoning, by arsenic, of foreigners, which occurred on the 15th of January, brought this feeling of insecurity to its height, and the knowledge that for the next three succeeding months a crafty and unscrupulous enemy was in our imme-

HONG KONG. diate vicinity, solely occupied in devising plots against both life and property in the city of Victoria, demanded unceasing vigilance on the part of the executive. By the great goodness of God the Government and the community have passed unscathed through these varied trials; and instead of the colony having suffered, I may confidently assure your Excellency that more real substantial progress has been made and improvement effected, in 1857, than in any previous year; and if, in the face of such trials, every portion of our revenue has given signs of a steady movement in advance, slight fears need now be entertained for the future prosperity of Hong Kong.

Three undertakings, which must necessarily exercise a great influence on the commercial prosperity of the island, the comfort of its inhabitants, and the appearance and safety of its capital, have been successfully commenced during the past year. I refer to the docks now in progress at Aberdeen, the rebuilding of the public markets, the erection of several new ones, and the construction of the Bowring praya. The docks are a private enterprise, fraught with most important consequences to that portion of the island which has been selected for their site, and the conditions upon which they are built will always afford to Her Majesty's ships the means of repairing all accidents which may occur to them in the China seas. By a judicious sale of certain portions of the market property ample funds have been obtained for rebuilding and constructing all the edifices necessary for a thorough re-arrangement of the market system, and there is every reason to suppose that the result of the change will be the destruction of a system of almost monopoly, which was injurious to the consumer, and not beneficial to the finances of the Government, and that the next Blue Book may tell of both an increased revenue from and diminished prices in the markets. That part of the Bowring praya which abuts on the Chinese portion of the town is in course of construction, and although the European Crown lessees apparently manifest less inclination to meet the wishes of the Government on this score, I can hardly doubt that persistence in a firm but conciliatory line of conduct with regard to them will eventually be successful. One great step in advance has at any rate been effected with regard to all; the value of the encroachments on the sea frontage has been assessed and levied, and no slight addition thereby made to the rent roll of Crown lands.

Striking changes have also been effected in the thorough lighting of the town, the numbering and registration of all the houses, the complete organization of the night pass system, the most beneficial police measure which has hitherto been carried into effect in this colony, and, finally, the registration of houses of ill-fame, and their restriction to certain portions of the town.

It is no slight satisfaction to me to be enabled to report that only one act of peculiar atrocity, the murder of the oldest English resident in China, Mr. Markwick, by his own servant, appears worthy of notice in the year's calendar of crime; and there the swift punishment which followed a criminal who seemed to have escaped beyond our jurisdiction was a source of satisfaction to the whole community, and a lesson full of warning to the Chinese population.

The Legislative Council has also assumed an entirely new character during the past year; its numbers have been increased by three official and one un-official members, whilst the vacancies created by the two original non-official members have been supplied. It must, therefore, be considered more in the light of a legislative body than has hitherto been the case; and its last act in the session of 1857 having been to decide unanimously on the publication of the records of its proceedings, no complaint can hereafter be fairly raised against it of a desire to avoid public comment on its acts.

I now proceed to make such observations as occur to me on the different topics suggested by the Blue Book.

1.—*Legislature.*

The Legislature passed during the year 12 Ordinances and one Rule of Court. Of these, the last named, and Ordinances 1, 4, 7, 8, and 9, had at the end of the year been confirmed by Her most Gracious Majesty the Queen; Ordinance 2 was suspended by your Excellency in Council, in consequence of instructions to that effect received from the Colonial Office; Ordinances 3, 5, and 6 were still under consideration; and Ordinances 10, 11, and 12 were passed too late in the year to admit of any notice with regard to them being received from home.

The general character of the legislation has been important, and presents more ground for remark than most preceding years. Ordinances 2 and 9 have enabled the Executive to keep our large Chinese population in hand during a season of great anxiety and some danger; and there is every reason to believe that the restrictive measures therein legalized

are highly satisfactory to all the respectable portion of the colonists, both native and foreign. The Registration Ordinance 6 was as to some of its provisions strongly opposed by me in the Legislative Council, and the more intimate knowledge of the people which the duties of my office have forced on me convince me that I was quite right in such opposition. With a fluctuating population such as ours it is impossible to carry out a system of personal registration, and it would be very injudicious to attempt so vexatious a proceeding, and then fail after all. Many of the other provisions of this Ordinance are admirable, but it attempts too much. Should it be remitted for reconsideration, it can, I think, be substantially improved. The only other Ordinance which demands particular mention from me is 12, for checking the spread of venereal disease, which came into operation at the close of the year. This enactment is, I believe, the first instance in which an English legislature has attempted to control the evils arising from prostitution; and I am firmly convinced that no more wise or beneficial measure was ever introduced in this or any other part of Her Majesty's dominions. Like most other experiments, the first essay is perhaps far from being perfect; but, nevertheless, a vast amount of good must be the immediate result; and it is no slight satisfaction to me personally to have been allowed to co-operate in so good a work.

Colonial Treasurer.

The returns from this department will perhaps be more closely scrutinized by the home authorities than those of any other in the Colonial Government, and unless carefully dissected they may lead to some misconception. There will at first sight appear a most striking similarity between the increase of the revenue and of the expenditure.

The gross and net increase of the former having been 24,073*l.* 4*s.* and 23,341*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.*, and of the latter 23,325*l.* and 23,071*l.*, respectively, thus apparently making the burdens on the colonial purse keep pace with its increasing prosperity; but, unless I am very much mistaken, it can be fairly demonstrated, that whereas the greater part of the outlay of the year 1857, was produced by political causes, the pressure of which had passed away before the close of the year, the additions to its revenue are of a permanent character, and more likely to advance than to fall off.

The principal sources of the increased receipts are,—

	£	s.	d.
Police assessment - - -	3,508	9	6
Premiums on land sold - - -	13,602	12	10
Markets - - -	1,460	11	1½
Fees and fines - - -	2,032	1	4
Special receipts - - -	1,450	16	4½
Interest - - -	900	0	0
	<u>22,954</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>2</u>

With the exception of the second item of this list, the great amount of which was caused by a sale of houses attached to the markets, the remaining five owe their increase to a more judicious management of Government property, a determination to make the community bear a fair proportion of its municipal expenses, and a decided increase in the population and the value of house property. Unless a change take place in the fortunes of the colony which no one has a right to anticipate at present, each successive year (supposing a similar line of policy to be persevered in) will increase these separate heads of revenue, and prevent a repetition of what has occurred this year, a falling off in the receipt from licences, but the trifling diminution there, 185*l.*, may fairly be set down rather to accidental causes than to any failure in the prosperity of the colony.

The additions to the expenditure are principally to be attributed to,—

Increase of establishments :—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Auditor General - - -	422	4	1			
Registrar General - - -	1,167	0	1½			
Police and gaols - - -	4,046	14	11			
				<u>5,635</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>1½</u>

Carry forward . . . 5,635 19 1½

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	Brought forward	-	-	£5,635	19	1½
Increase, exclusive of establishments :—						
Police and gaols	-	-	-	2,101	19	8½
Works and buildings, roads, streets, &c.	-	-	-	8,410	11	7
Purchase of buildings	-	-	-	1,971	14	8
Special expenses	-	-	-	3,448	9	5
					15,932	15 4½
					21,568	14 6

I shall explain in another place the causes which have led to so considerable an increase, in the departments of the Registrar General, the police and gaol, and works and buildings.

Purchase of buildings 1,971*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.*

The re-arrangement of the market system rendered it necessary to buy the remainder of the term of years of one of the market lessees, and it was expenditure on this account that has added so materially to this item of outlay.

Special expenses 3,797*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*

The items which create this total are :—

	£	s.	d.
Emptying dust bins	-	182	18 4
Lighting street lamps	-	862	3 1
Charter of the "Phœbe Dunbar" to deport certain Chinese	-	1,130	4 2
Ditto of the steamer "Eaglet" to protect the harbour	-	891	4 2
Passage money from Singapore to the Peninsular and Oriental Steamer for officer and men of the 59th Regiment who were sent as guard in the "Phœbe Dunbar"	-	306	17 7
Other incidental special expenses	-	424	3 2
		3,797	10 6

Whereas the sum expended under the head of special expenses in the preceding year, 1856, a period unmarked by any unusual contingencies, only amounted to 349*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.*

3. Police and Gaols.

The excess of expenditure on Police and Gaols in 1857, as compared with 1856, has been 5,986*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.* of which only 381*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.* is on account of the gaol, and the remainder, 5,605*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.*, on account of the police.

As the police and the gaol have no connexion with each other in this colony it will be better that I should treat of them separately.

The unusual precautions which it was found necessary to take during the first six months of 1857 necessitated a large temporary increase to the police force, and its consequence was a considerable additional expenditure, but when the emergency passed off reductions were at once made, and by the close of the year the force had returned to its old strength, except as regards the water police, consisting principally of Chinese, and whose services cannot well be dispensed with. The general pay of subordinate members has been slightly increased, and I am inclined to hope with beneficial results, as a better class of men seem willing to enter the service now than at any previous period.

I cannot, however, refrain from putting on record my opinion that the police force is still in a most unsatisfactory condition; and although the materials which compose it preclude the possibility of its ever attaining a high state of efficiency, yet a close and constant attention paid by myself personally convinces me that were greater activity made use of by the Superintendent of Police the force could be considerably improved.

The Gaol.

The excess of expenditure here in 1857 over 1856 has been 381*l.* 7*d.*, and this is to be attributed to an alteration in the establishment of the appointment of a governor, slight additions to the salaries, and a vast increase in the number of prisoners, who have averaged 321 each week throughout the year.

But had this increase been thrice its present amount it would, I think, have been cheaply purchased, considering the wonderful improvement which has resulted from

relieving the sheriff of the custody of the prisoners, and placing them under the care of Mr. Inglis, the present governor. I should occupy far too much space were I to attempt to enumerate the changes for the better; and I will therefore confine myself to saying, that the gaol, up to the early part of 1857, had every possible defect of management save one, and that want of cleanliness, and now it is as well regulated as it can possibly be, considering its deficiencies in accommodation and want of security. It must, however, be again repeated, that whereas, according to the rules of prison areas in England, (far too limited for a climate like this,) there is only space for 190 prisoners at one time in Victoria gaol, the average has been 70 per cent. in excess of this. The smallest number on the returns gives 245 and the largest 584 occupants at any one period; and I cannot but feel considerable regret that the state of the colonial finances compels the continuance of a system so dangerous and so much to be lamented. As, however, there appears to be a promise of funds available hereafter for enlarging the gaol, I would respectfully suggest to your Excellency that the best course then to be pursued will be, not to extend the present premises, but to construct a separate prison elsewhere for the prisoners under long sentence, and to reserve the existing gaol for the short sentence men of all descriptions. Now the European seamen sent in for refusal of duty or intoxication herd at least all day with the European transports of every dye of crime, running the risk of making themselves worse, and alleviating in an improper manner the severity of the punishment of the felon convict, by giving him an unceasing change of companionship, and enabling him to convey messages out should he wish to attempt to escape. Now, also, the same evil exists to a still greater degree from the admixture in the hospital and the common yard and at meal times of Chinese transports with the minor vice and crime of the native population, who, coming in merely for days, weeks, or months, convey to the lifer or the twenty years' man all the petty details of the most recent robberies or remarkable burglaries or piracies, to the deeper contamination of all parties. It is evident that we are unable to rid ourselves of our European transports, and can only at rare intervals draft off batches of our Chinese to Labuan. I would, therefore, wish to see the construction of a convict gaol, to be reserved solely for that purpose. It could, I believe, be erected at hardly more expense than is required for the enlargement of Victoria gaol, a work otherwise of indispensable necessity. Were that done hardly any money need be spent on the last-named building, which would be sufficient for the accommodation and custody of all the less aggravated form of offenders.

4. *The Surveyor General.*

The aggregate amount of expenditure debited to this department during the year 1857 amounts to the large sum of 17,021*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.*, which is divisible into 10,757*l.* 6*s.* 11*d.* for works and buildings, and 6,262*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.* for roads, streets, and bridges.

Works commenced in former years and completed in this have demanded an outlay of 5,291*l.* 7*s.* 7½*d.*, and works still in progress 11,730*l.* 8*s.* 11½*d.*

The principal buildings which have occupied the attention of the Surveyor General have been the Central and West Point Police Stations, both of them important additions to the efficiency of the force, the one in the centre of the town and the other at its western extremity. The markets, of which the two principal are being rebuilt, and four new ones constructed, as are also two substantial slaughterhouses. This will, perhaps, be the most fitting place for me to recall to your remembrance how the large amount of funds have been provided (exceeding 14,000*l.*) required for these alterations. The old market system was perhaps as faulty a one as could have existed. Portions of Crown lands had been granted to lessees, on condition of their erecting markets thereon and paying a certain annual rental. But it had not been provided that the whole of such land should be devoted to market purposes, and consequently the lessees appropriated a considerable portion of it to building houses thereon totally unconnected with the market, but which paid the very remunerative rents, while the markets proper remained in a disgraceful state of dilapidation, were carved out into separate monopolies, and were but of secondary importance to the lessees. One of the leases falling in in September last, it was resolved to take the whole market system into the hands of the Government. It was further resolved to sell such of the above-mentioned houses as were distinct from the only two then existing markets, the central and western, and apply the amount thereby realized in perfecting the new market arrangement. That sale realized the singularly large sum of 14,822*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.* or thereabouts; and when I mention that the amounts received from the markets notwithstanding such sale, and before the additional markets have been opened, considerably exceeds the old market revenue, the wisdom of the change demands no comment, for we shall exchange the old markets, such as I have

HONG KONG. described, and contributing but slightly to our exchequer, for six markets and two slaughterhouses in a perfect state of repair, and yet the colonial treasury will not have been called upon to expend a shilling, and reports an already increased market rental.

Returning from this somewhat long digression, there is but one other point connected with the Surveyor General's department to which I would wish to allude. That one is the imperative necessity of commencing at an early day a thorough water supply to the town. In England this might be left to private enterprise; here it must be taken in hand by the Government or altogether neglected; and I fervently hope that there will be no great delay in the matter, for the continuance of a long drought, such as occurred within the last seven years, would, I really believe, threaten the very existence of this fast-growing community. We have now a permanent town population of nearly 40,000 souls entirely dependent on a few mountain streams.

I would very earnestly press this danger upon your Excellency, because its possibility presents itself to me each succeeding year as I see the houses extending now east and now west, and yet nothing done to prevent the also increasing diminution of our water supply during the dry season.

A famine of water would destroy all the progress that has been made during the last five years. An expenditure of about 20,000*l.*, to be easily raised on loan at a moderate rate of interest, such interest to be charged on the rental of the Crown lands, would render us for ever secure.

5. Registrar General.

As the coloured population exceed the white in this community in the proportion of about 54 to 1, and everything connected with the Chinese, who compose nine tenths of the former class, passes more or less through this department, it is virtually the most important in the colony. I cannot speak in too high praise of the manner in which the present Registrar General discharges all his duties; and it is a pleasant duty incumbent on me to have to record that I am convinced your Excellency has no more zealous and certainly not so efficient a subordinate under your orders. The population returns furnished from this department have been prepared with unusual care this year, and after a close personal inspection of them I think I may say they can be taken as very fairly correct. The gross amount of inhabitants shows an increase of about 5,000 over the preceding year, and that chiefly in the boat population; but this comparison is scarcely to be relied on, and therefore it may be sufficient to say that there is hardly a vacant house to be found of any description in the town of Victoria, and that rents have gone up at least 30 per cent., for there can be no surer criterion than this of the present flourishing state of the colony.

I would, however, wish to point out one or two facts to be elicited from these lists; the first of which, that the average proportion of Chinese females to males is far higher than it has ever previously been, a result only to be produced from the colony being at last considered a home by the natives, and not a mere place of business; the other point is one of painful interest, and forces the conclusion on me that the killing of female infants must be a widely prevailing crime among our rural and boat population.

In the town districts, we find,

Boys	-	-	3254	Girls	-	-	3547
In the rural population,							
Boys	-	-	464	Girls	-	-	341
In the boats,							
Boys	-	-	4212	Girls	-	-	2348

I would fain attribute such a remarkable difference to another cause than the one above stated, but I am unable to do so. A comparison of the returns of the last nine years presents the same feature, and even shows the disproportion to be rather increasing than diminishing.

6. Colonial Surgeon.

All things are changed for the better, and will doubtless so continue while we retain the services of our present, active, zealous, and skilful surgeon. The fresh duties which devolved on him at the close of the year with regard to the Lock Hospital have been cheerfully taken in hand, and augur well for the success of that most necessary institution. Dr. Menzies having arrived in the latter half of the year, I shall take upon myself to add

to his report, that 1857 was a more than average unhealthy year, in consequence, I believe, of the failure of the usual amount of rain, but still, on the whole, there is every reason to believe that the colony is gradually improving in salubrity, however bad may be the character that it bears in this respect at home. HONG KONG.

7. Imports and Exports.

I have deviated from the usual custom of adding to the Blue Book tables of the supposed imports and exports, because, after a careful investigation, I am convinced no reliance can be placed on such returns in this colony. We have no custom-house machinery here of any description whatsoever, and no means of ascertaining whether the lists furnished by captains of ships are true or false. Such being the case, I think it preferable, in a document of so much importance as the Blue Book, to avoid anything which may possibly mislead, and will merely add that there is every reason to believe far larger trade operations have taken place within the colony in 1857 than in any preceding year.

8. Education.

It is with the utmost pleasure that I can at last say that the Government education of Chinese children throughout this colony shows signs of healthy vitality. It must have been a painful subject in former years to notice how little was done in this respect; but now that the services of Mr. Lobscheid have been permanently secured, to superintend the whole system, I believe that a new era has commenced. Your Excellency is aware of my having personally visited all these schools throughout the island, and that inspection has satisfied me that if a prudent liberality in the employment of competent native teachers is persevered in the rising generation of our Chinese fellow subjects will not be such aliens to us in feelings and habits as the great bulk of our population is at present. It is only through the native schools that this very desirable change can be introduced; and I would hope that the expenditure on their account in future years will be on a somewhat larger scale than has hitherto been the case. With an aggregate amount of 7,586 children of the land population, to say nothing of 6,560 belonging to the boats, a daily attendance of less than 500 is hardly a result to be alluded to with satisfaction, after we have held this island for 15 years; but I am afraid that I must remark that there is not at present accommodation for more, and that until proper schoolrooms are erected at the public expense this number can hardly be increased. The committee refer to the report of Mr. Lobscheid, as being appended to their own. The Bishop has gone on a visit to the ports, without returning such report, and I am therefore unable to lay it before your Excellency on this occasion.

Having thus brought to the notice of your Excellency all the more salient points bearing on the Blue Book, I am almost afraid that I have exceeded the limits of an official report of this nature, but if I have done so I trust your Excellency will pardon me, and attribute my error to the very great interest I take in the colony.

LABUAN.

LABUAN.

No. 38.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor the Hon. GEORGE EDWARDES to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE.

(No. 19.)

Government Office, Labuan, 29th April 1858.

(Received July 20th, 1858.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the blue book for the year 1857.

I regret that the returns do not exhibit any improvement in the condition of the colony. I consider, however, that I am justified in repeating that its depression does not prove that the colony will be less advantageous than was anticipated on its establishment. It is however shown that the mere fact of hoisting the British flag does not suffice to draw capital and enterprise, to establish a trade, and secure prosperity. An improvement can be shown in the immediate vicinity of the town, which has been, to a certain extent, cleared, drained, and levelled.

LABUAN.

I have not derived the full benefit I looked for from the sixty Hong Kong convicts, though, apparently, as reported, an efficient body of men. Whether from their previous life, or the effects of their treatment on the passage here (which I have reason to believe was severe), their constitutions were so impaired that ailments, considered insignificant, such as diarrhœa and ulcers, proved in almost every case incurable. Although employed in draining, the cases of fever have been comparatively few and trifling, except with those who had never rallied from other ailments. Viewing the necessity of the case, and the submissive conduct of the men, their chains were removed soon after their arrival, and a liberal diet of fresh meat allowed, as labor was the object. The advantage is now apparent in the improved condition of the men, in their ability and ready compliance with what is required of them. I hope to secure forty able bodies, a force too inadequate for the work to be done.

I desire to draw your attention, sir, to the great falling off, I may say, extinction, of our trade with the coast of Borneo, and the isolated position in which we stand, at times almost destitute of supplies, amply afforded on my first arrival,—now trebled and quadrupled in cost. It is the result I anticipated soon after the arrival of the Consul General, and easy to foresee when Mr. St. John was withdrawn from Sarawak, and ordered to reside in Bruné. The Pangerans of the several rivers prohibit all traffic with Labuan. Their produce must be taken to Bruné. The same compulsion forbids the intercourse which heretofore supplied our labouring class. Boats have come over to endeavour to remove some of the few who remain, and who do not fail to take advantage of the necessitous demand for hands. What influence the Governor of Labuan had with the Sultan to counteract these measure is subverted. If this system is to be carried on a population must be sought elsewhere. I am at present endeavouring, through a Chinese house, to obtain an importation from some rural districts in China. I beg to have your support, Sir, in carrying out this object.

Of the coal properties I am able to speak more favourably,—the seam at Tanjong Kubong is now secure, and I am engaged in examining another seam within half a mile to the south, very advantageously situated, which I expect will prove to be valuable. The quality is good, and the extent promises to be equal to the one now open. The two combined would form most productive works, and place the prosperity of this Colony beyond the influence of all adversity.

I conclude, Sir, with a few remarks on the climate. The season has been most unpropitious and sickness, *i.e.* fever, fearfully prevalent,—the type again assuming more of the remittent than intermittent character. All Europeans, male and female have been attacked; one case, a female in my own establishment, fatally; and I have lost an old and most valued servant. The Chinese and Natives have been almost equally sufferers, this applies particularly to the Victoria district; at Tanjong Kubong coal works health has been preserved. Were I to give the state of the military as a proof of our condition, it would be, indeed, startling. The assistant-surgeon's report, now before me, gives a return of nine hundred and nine cases, of which six hundred and forty-five were fever, treated in hospital last year, ten deaths, twelve have been invalided, of whom three died on their passage to Singapore, strength one hundred and forty-five. I do not give this as a report upon the climate of Labuan; I cannot withhold the statement. I think I can explain the cause. As regards the Europeans and other inhabitants of the Victoria district, the condition of the land undoubtedly generates the fever; it would, in my opinion, be so in any climate, how much more under the effects of a tropical sun,—the remedy will be found in clearing and draining. On the Government lies the obligation to make and maintain the main drains, to clear the jungle from all lands in their possession, where its present state affects the health of the community. In this work I am now engaged to the utmost of my resources. The much greater proportion of land in the district is sold (some to Government officers and employes, other lots to absentees, or to persons unable or unwilling to incur any expense,) under obligation to occupy or improve within three years, which has not been done in parts most affecting the salubrity of the place. Hitherto I have been unable to act, as the Government had been equally negligent of its duties, and now, the scarcity of labour precludes all improvement, even were the proprietors so inclined. Till the work is done the fever must still remain with us. When the jungle is young the expense even then would be of small account, and with a saw mill the value of the timber could be brought to meet the charge of removal from land, which requires no drainage and is well adapted for cultivation. In ignorance of our fate I can only consider these matters, unable to further them, by applying for your assistance. With regard to the troops, were all done that is required their condition must be bad; the material is of the most indifferent quality; they come here unwillingly; they have not an object in view or occupation on hand; their life is listless and dissatisfied; they deny

909 cases.
645 fever.
10 deaths.
12 invalided.
Strength 145.

themselves the food absolutely necessary for health ; they consume bhang and opium, and it needs no more to account for their wretched state. As a force they have been utterly useless ever since I have been here ; the artillery could not work two guns, and, as the assistant-surgeon reports, not half of those on duty could march across the island, and not one be fit for anything when arrived there. I cannot get them even to keep their own parade in order, which was cleared and drained for them by the convicts.

At Tanjong Kubong Coal Works, during the last two months, when the work falling upon the six Europeans by day and night, has been most severe, they have been free from sickness. With the natives, Chinese and Seidies, at times equally hard tasked, cases of fever have been very rare. As it might be, wholesome food, abstinence from excess and deleterious drugs, occupation for body and mind, life would be as safe here, I am convinced, as anywhere. In the present state of the Victoria district, the strongest may fall at any time. With the mind distressed or the body afflicted from any cause no one can be safe from fever. Anxiety and distress laid me open to the attack, and though seasoned by constant exposure, I did not escape.

Should it be decided that the colony is to be retained, it must not be viewed as a ten years' settlement, but be considered in its earliest infancy, and find the support it needs.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere,
&c. &c.

(Signed) GEORGE EDWARDES.

PART VI.

MEDITERRANEAN POSSESSIONS AND IONIAN
ISLANDS.

PART VI.—MEDITERRANEAN POSSESSIONS AND IONIAN ISLANDS.

GIBRALTAR.

GIBRALTAR.

No. 39.

No. 39.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Lieutenant General Sir JAMES FERGUSSON
to Secretary the Right Hon. Major-General PEEL.

“Gibraltar, March 3, 1858.

“Military Works.

“THESE are constantly progressing under the commanding officer of the Royal Engineers, and, during the year, a very comfortable barrack for 400 men has been completed, and occupied by the troops. The officers’ quarters to be attached to these barracks are in course of erection.

“I must conclude my Report by repeating what I stated in my Despatch No. 45, dated 11th March 1857, forwarding the ‘Blue Book’ for 1856, respecting the supply of water:—‘Although there is an ample supply of water at all times on the North Front, yet the inhabitants of the upper part of the town are put to much expense in procuring it; and it would be very desirable to form a large tank, partly for the supply of the poorer classes living there, and also for sanitary purposes, by occasionally flushing the drains of this most densely populated part of the town.’

“Plans and Estimates have already been sent in; and this is a work of such necessity that I strongly suggest that a sum of money should be granted for this purpose, and the Work (necessarily occupying much time) begun without delay.

“During the past summer, which followed a very dry winter, the want of sufficient tanks was felt very much, and considerable expense to the public was caused by having to cart water to the different barracks throughout the whole summer—the tanks having been emptied at an early period. Ample rain falls during the winter, the sloping shape of the rock rendering it easy to direct; and the supply of water is of such vital consequence, that I cannot too strongly urge it for the consideration of Her Majesty’s Government.”

MALTA.

MALTA.

No. 40.

COPY of DESPATCH from Major-General Sir WM. REID to the Right Hon.
LORD STANLEY.

(No 42.)

MY LORD,

Palace, Valetta, March 27, 1858.

(Received April 10, 1858.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of Malta for the year 1857, together with a statement by the late Auditor General in regard to the local revenue and expenditure during that year.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WM. REID,
Governor.

The AUDITOR GENERAL'S STATEMENT of the FINANCIAL CONDITION of MALTA, to accompany the "Blue Book" for the year 1857. GIBRALTAR.

The following view is offered of the gross Revenue of Malta, received during the five years immediately preceding the one to which the present statement relates:—

1852	-	-	£127,728	} Yearly Average £128,542.
1853	-	-	123,305	
1854	-	-	123,771	
1855	-	-	126,738	
1856	-	-	141,168	
Fractions	-	-	2	

2. The gross receipt of Revenue for the year 1857 is 132,681*l.* 19*s.* 11½*d.*, being 8,426*l.* less than the amount derived in 1856;—a difference which will be found nearly accounted for under the head of Customs. In last year's statement, the large receipt of the Customs was assigned to circumstances connected with the transition from a state of war to one of peace—a cause which has not operated in 1857. As compared with the other years, this year stands in a most favourable point of view; and the aggregate of its receipts is such as to indicate a high degree of internal prosperity, uninfluenced by extraordinary causes.

3. For the expenditure of the year, a provision of 122,203*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.* was made on the general estimate prepared in 1856, and 19,569*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* on supplementary estimates, making together a supply of 141,772*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.*; and the total sum expended within the year has been 134,442*l.* 17*s.* 0½*d.*

4. Thus the expenditure has exceeded the Revenue by 1,760*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.*, reducing the surplus revenue of 45,021*l.* 17*s.* 0½*d.* stated last year, to 43,260*l.* 19*s.* 11½*d.* remaining at the end of 1857.

5. This surplus is available for future use, in addition to the current collections of revenue. It will be partly required for the completion of works already commenced or undertaken, which may involve a further outlay to the extent of nearly 12,000*l.*; and the remainder will be applicable to any new work or service, including any further sum that may be required for the clearance of the fortifications from civil occupants, or to make good any deficiency in the estimated value.

Audit Office, Valetta,
February 18, 1858.

(Signed) WM. HY. THORNTON,
Auditor-General.

IONIAN ISLANDS.

IONIAN
ISLANDS

No. 41.

No. 41.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir JOHN YOUNG, Bart., to the
Right Hon. Sir E. BULWER LYTTON, Bart.

(No. 77.)

Corfu, July 15, 1858.

(Received August 4, 1858.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of the Ionian Islands for the year 1857, together with the customary Report.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN YOUNG.

The Right Hon. Sir E. Bulwer Lytton, Bart.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 41.

Encl. in No. 41.

REPORT on the Blue Book for the financial year (1857) ending 31st January 1858.

REVENUE.

Increase.

The general revenue of the Ionian Islands in 1856 was 184,646*l.*, and in 1857 it fell to 110,310*l.*; showing a decrease of 74,336*l.*

It is, however, to be recollected, that the accounts of these States are presented only biennially to the Ionian Parliament, which votes a civil list and budget for two years. The revenue of the biennium 1856 and 1857 was 294,956*l.*, that of the preceding biennium (1854 and 1855) was only 265,449*l.*; there is, therefore, on the biennium just closed, an increase of 29,507*l.*, which proves that the resources of the country are steadily progressing.

IONIAN
ISLANDS.

The only items which appear in the comparative statement made in the Blue Book for 1857 (pages 30 and 31) to have increased in amount over that received in 1856, are 103*l.* for export duty on island wines; 414*l.* health office dues; and 59*l.*, to the credit of the packet establishment.

The first item of increase is to be accounted for by a greater quantity of island wines having been exported in 1857 than in 1856. The Ionian wines having been recently introduced into the markets of Trieste, Venice, and other ports, have got into greater demand; and the quantity exported will, there is no doubt, gradually increase year by year.

The second item, health office dues, shows an augmentation in consequence of an increase in the arrivals of vessels and passengers in these islands during the year; and the third item, because the Ionian steamer, since its thorough repair at Malta, has been employed on occasional trips with passengers to the northern and southern points of Corfu.

Decrease.

With the exception of the three items mentioned under the head of Increase, every other source of public revenue has considerably decreased, in comparison with the amount received during the previous year.

It was fully explained in the last report that, as the principal taxes levied in the Ionian Islands are export duties on the staple produce of oil and currants, the public revenue necessarily varies according to the abundance or deficiency of those crops. The olive trees of Corfu produce a good crop only biennially. The harvest of 1855, matured and exported in 1856, was abundant; and that of 1856, matured and exported in 1857, very trifling; consequently, the export duties paid on oil during 1857 show a decrease of above 37,500*l.* when compared with the returns of the previous year. However, this deficiency will, it is expected, be amply compensated by the revenue from the magnificent oil crop of 1857, matured in the current year, a large portion of which has been already exported, and will figure in the report for the next financial year.

The currant crop of 1857 was almost entirely destroyed by the unusual and unfortunate occurrence of heavy falls of rain in Zante and Cephalonia during the month of August last, while the fruit was on the drying grounds. Thus, a considerable source of revenue was lost to the State; and the export duty on currants for the year exhibits a decrease of 26,221*l.*

It was also explained on a former occasion, that abundant crops of oil and currants influence the revenue not only *directly* by augmenting the export duties, but also *indirectly* by enriching the population in general, and so enabling the inhabitants of these states to import and consume a greater quantity of articles subject to duty. Consequently to the deficient produce from oil and currants may be traced also the decrease in 1857 of 1,832*l.* under the head of "Customs," of 2,032*l.* under the head of "Foreign Wines" and "Spirits," of 418*l.* under the head of "Tobacco," of 1,539*l.* under the head of "Foreign Grain," and of considerable sums under other heads. For example, the decrease which will be remarked in the items of stamps, judicial and registration fees, &c. is to be partly explained by the general distress of the land interest. After a plentiful harvest the landlords and other creditors take advantage of the peasants being in better circumstances than usual to compel by legal process the payment of arrears of rent and other similar obligations.

There is a decrease of 162*l.* in the post office revenue, chiefly arising (as was the case at first in England) from the introduction in 1857 of a uniform penny postage in the Ionian Islands. This trifling deficit will, it is confidently expected, be amply compensated for in future years, by the increase of correspondence consequent on the reduction of the rates of postage, and on a considerable increase in the means of internal and external communication.

The decrease of receipts under the head of "Public Instruction," arises principally from reductions in the fees exacted from the students at the university and college.

EXPENDITURE.

Increase.

The increased expenditure under the head of the Legislative Assembly arises from the meeting of that body in session in 1857. There was no session in 1856, the Ionian parliament meeting only biennially under ordinary circumstances, according to the provisions of the constitutional charter.

The increased expenditure under the heads of "Civil and Judicial Establishments" is caused by an augmentation voted by the Assembly in the salaries of the judges and other civil officers. This augmentation became necessary in consequence of the great rise in the price of the provisions and general cost of living in the Ionian Islands, owing to the causes reported last year.

The increase of 1,147*l.* under the head of "Public Works" is occasioned by several new works having been undertaken, partly with the view of enabling the peasantry (who in some districts were almost reduced to starvation by the failure of their crops) to gain a livelihood by their labour.

The increase of 1,531*l.* under the head of Packet Establishment, &c. has been caused by the purchase and repair of several vessels to act as coast guard boats and revenue cutters. It is expected that the outlay thus incurred has been already more than saved by the discouragement of contraband trade and other frauds on the revenue.

An increase of 148*l.* has been caused by the rise in the price of the oil supplied for the lighthouses.

The apparent increase of 1,891*l.* for "Gaols" is caused by a resolution of the Legislative Assembly, which transferred the expenditure for this branch of the service from the municipal funds of the several islands to those of the general government.

Decrease.

The decreased expenditure of 165*l.* under the head of Public Instruction, has been caused by several salaries having, in accordance with the new organization, been reduced.

The decreased expenditure under the head of Executive Police of 304*l.* arises chiefly from a reduction in the price of the clothing for the constables.

There are several small items of variation, caused by casualties, and which require no comment. The large decrease in the expenditure under the head of "Contingencies," arises principally from the disappearance of cholera, and the consequent discontinuance of the extraordinary measures taken during the presence of that epidemic.

Local Revenue.

The local or municipal revenues of the several islands, as stated in former reports, are subject to the same influences and fluctuations as the revenue of the general government. Hence, the sum received from the local revenues in 1857 only amounts to 29,960*l.*, whereas, in the preceding more flourishing year it reached 42,216*l.*

The road tax (which is an impost of 1½ per cent. *ad valorem* on exports) produced upwards of 12,000*l.* in 1856, but hardly exceeded 6,000*l.* in 1857.

Public Debt.

At the close of the financial year 1856 the public debt of the Ionian Islands amounted to 230,486*l.* At the close of the financial year 1857 it amounted to 241,427. There has been, therefore, an increase of 10,491*l.* rendered indispensable by the deficiency of the public revenue, owing to the causes stated above. It is expected that the abundant oil crop and revenue of 1858 will put the Government in a position to pay off some portion of the debt.

Military Contribution.

In consequence of the deficiency of revenue during 1857, 6,000*l.* of the military contribution had not been paid at the close of the financial year. But this debt was liquidated shortly afterwards, and the entire amount of 25,000*l.* due for 1857 has now been fully discharged.

Judicial Establishment.

In this establishment there has been no material change during the year, except a small increase in the salaries voted by the Assembly to the judges and other officers as stated above.

Ecclesiastical Establishment.

The only change in this branch is a small addition made to the salaries of the several Bishops

Education.

This branch of the public service is in a transition state. It is as yet too soon to report on the probable results of the new organization introduced by an Act of the Ionian Parliament passed in 1857. In a merely pecuniary point of view, the resources arising from this department have diminished, in consequence of a considerable reduction having been made in the amount of contribution to be paid by the students, but it is hoped that the system will work better than in times past, and that the public and government will obtain ultimately manifold advantages from the reforms introduced. The nature of these changes is explained below, under the head of "General Legislation."

Population.

Since 1856, when a careful census of the Ionian population was taken, the population has increased. In 1856 the number reached 227,106, whereas at the close of 1857 the total was 227,230.

In the years immediately preceding 1856, the population had (as already reported) sensibly decreased, owing to the visitation of the cholera in 1855, and to the absence of large numbers of Ionians as camp followers during the Russian war in the Crimea, and at the various military and naval establishments of the Allies in the Levant.

Agriculture.

The agricultural interest in Zante and Cephalonia, has received a heavy blow from the almost total destruction of the currant crop, owing to the heavy rains which fell in August 1857 while the fruit was on the drying grounds, but not yet fit for shipping. The disease which has devastated the vineyards throughout the south of Europe for several years past continues to show itself in the currant vines (*vitis corinthiaca*) with scarcely diminished virulence.

The landed proprietors, impoverished by the failures in their harvests during seven successive years, find great difficulty in providing sufficient quantities of sulphur, which experience has proved to be the only antidote against this epidemic. Moreover, the great increase in the cultivation of currants in various parts of the kingdom of Greece, and more especially in the Peloponnesus, has tended to lower the value of this staple produce of the Southern Ionian Islands. The production here has grown to exceed the consumption which is almost entirely confined to Great Britain, Holland, and some parts of the United States of America. The Greek government contemplate a material reduction in their export duties on currants; and proposals of the same nature will probably be laid before the Ionian Parliament during the session of 1859.

The unusual severity of last winter has inflicted considerable damage on the orange and lemon trees. Still, with the above important exceptions, the agriculture of the Ionian Islands continues to prosper; an increasing quantity of arable land is brought under cultivation in each succeeding year. This is especially the case at Corfu. The rapidly increasing trade of that island, and of its chief town, the capital of the Ionian States, tends powerfully to promote agricultural enterprise.

The supply in fact is as yet scarcely equal to the growing demand for fresh meat, poultry, vegetables, fruit, &c., caused by numerous passenger steamers which now enter this port from all parts of the Mediterranean. Hence arise chiefly the continued dearth of provisions, and the greatly augmented cost of living, disadvantages which it is hoped will gradually disappear in consequence of the rapid extension of market gardens, of the import trade in cattle and sheep, and of a fuller supply of farm produce of all kinds.

Commerce.

The experience of another year confirms the favourable report in the Blue Book for 1856, as to the general development of the trade of the Ionian Islands. The inhabitants of the small island of Ithaca, containing a population of only 13,000 souls, have, with the assistance of the general government, erected in their harbour a building slip for large vessels, such as those used in the trade with the Black Sea, and which have hitherto been built at Syra and other ports of the Levant.

The commerce of Corfu in particular continues steadily to increase. This port is now entered regularly by lines of merchant steamers under the English, Austrian, Dutch and Greek flags. The establishment of communication by electric telegraph with Malta, and thence with the rest of Europe, affords additional facilities to the commercial body of this island. Direct electric telegraphs are also projected between Corfu and Trieste, Alexandria and Athens. In a short time this island will be the centre of telegraphic communication as it is already of steam navigation in the Eastern Mediterranean. At present the telegrams from India are forwarded from Egypt to Corfu at the same time as to Malta, and frequently reach this island first.

General Legislation.

Twenty-two Acts were passed during 1857, in the first session of the eleventh Ionian Parliament. They may be divided according to the following heads:—

A. Commerce and Navigation.

Act No. 2. facilitates the purchase and transfer of vessels under the Ionian flag. The British consular authorities are empowered to give Ionian vessels passes which may remain valid for twelve months.

Act No. 7. grants to English merchant steamers certain privileges formerly accorded to the steamers of the Austrian Lloyd's Company.

Act No. 9.; with the object of encouraging the building and repair of ships within the Ionian States, the necessary materials are exempted from duty.

Act No. 14. guarantees to a steam company in Cephalonia, for 10 years, an interest of 5 per cent. on its capital of 30,000 dollars.

Act No. 17. modifies certain custom house duties, and reduces the tariff of health office and harbour fees.

B. Finances.

Act No. 3. establishes a new system of civil pensions, but guarantees the vested rights acquired under former laws.

Act No. 13. introduces a uniform system of postage, after the English fashion, with prepayment by stamps.

Act No. 15. renders obligatory the commutation in money of the payments in kind formerly made from certain portions of the Government property.

Act No. 22. grants small salaries to the members of the municipal councils in the country districts.

C. Justice.

Act No. 1. curtails the jurisdiction of the district judges. The Ionian Parliament is desirous to abolish the country courts established by Lord Seaton, and to centralize the administration of justice in the chief town of each island.

Act No. 5. facilitates the publication in the southern islands of the sentences of the Supreme Court of Corfu.

Act No. 6. establishes elective councils of merchants to act as assessors to judges in certain commercial cases.

Act No. 8. extends the power of appeal from the sentences of the police courts.

Act No. 10. modifies the criminal law in certain cases.

Act No. 16. modifies the laws respecting forced sales of the property of debtors.

Act No. 18. regulates the transfer of property in certain cases.

Act No. 21. modifies the laws in force for the payment of injuries done to rural property.

D. Public Instruction.

Act No. 20. This is the most important Act passed in the session of 1857. The public educational establishments of the States henceforward consist in an university at Corfu, which grants degrees in the four faculties of theology, law, medicine, and arts; in a college (or higher collegiate school) also at Corfu; in a *Lyceum*, or grammar school, in each of the seven islands; and in numerous primary schools in all the principal villages. The former commission of public instruction is abolished, and the department is placed under the general control and superintendence of a Director General with the title of Archon. An annual sum of 12,000*l.* is voted permanently for the expenses of this department.

E. Religion.

Act No. 12. exempts from duty gifts presented from abroad to the principal churches of the Ionian Islands.

F. Public Health.

Act No. 4. prohibits under penalties the use of deleterious substances in the manufacture or colouring of sweetmeats and liqueurs.

Act No. 11. provides for the appointment of medical officers and district dispensaries, for the gratuitous assistance of the poorer classes of the population.

G. F. BOWEN,

Secretary to the Lord High Commissioner.

Palace, Corfu,
10th July 1858.

PART VII.

HELIGOLAND.

HELIGOLAND.

No. 42. (No. 10.)

No 42.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor R. PATTINSON to the Right Honourable Lord STANLEY.

Heligoland, 18 March 1858.

(Received March 24, 1858.)

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book for Heligoland, which, owing to the numerically small statistical details, your Lordship may be aware is only triennially furnished.

2. I shall have the honour to address your Lordship very shortly upon the important interests of this island, which depend more particularly upon the protection and preservation of Sandy Island, now rapidly wasting away by the action of the sea, and upon which vital and important question the inhabitants of Heligoland have requested me to forward a petition to your Lordship, which it will be my duty to furnish as soon as I receive their next report.

3. In the meantime, I should wish to bring to your Lordship's notice that I am mainly indebted to my secretary, Mr. Henry Gätke, for his exertions, and the assistance he has afforded me in making up these details, which I believe to be now very accurately furnished, and with the very little assistance afforded by the local and responsible authorities.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. PATTINSON,
Lieut-Governor.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley.
&c. &c. &c.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

FALKLAND
ISLANDS.

No. 43.

No. 43.

(No. 11.)

Government House, Stanley, Falkland Islands,
February 15, 1858.

(Received May 12, 1858.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to enclose the Blue Book for the year 1857.

2. It is satisfactory to be able to point out an increase in the number of ships, both British and Foreign, which have availed themselves of the advantages here offered for refit, watering, and refreshment. In this increase will be found the prosperity and use of the settlement founded here.

3. Among the vessels so repaired here I may mention Her Majesty's steam frigate "Retribution," which put in last winter to repair her rudder, without which repair she could not have proceeded on her voyage. The nearest ports on the South American shore, where such repair could have been executed, would have delayed her voyage at least a month beyond her detention here. The case of the American ship "Great Republic," (with a cargo of 4,000 tons of guano, valued at 40,000*l.*, for London,) I have before incidentally mentioned. This vessel, with several others, was damaged seriously in the neighbourhood of Cape Horn, and were enabled, after refitting here, to pursue their respective voyages.

4. The lighthouse on Cape Pembroke has proved of acknowledged benefit, and many shipmasters have spoken of its advantages.

5. The renewal of the Mail Contract has given a fresh impetus to the trade of the Colony, but as I have had so lately the honour to report on this subject I need not again notice it.

6. Some attempts at a more extended cultivation of gardens have been made at Stanley with considerable success, and the supply of vegetables will soon, I trust, be equal to the

demand ; and, in the meantime, it is satisfactory that the owners of gardens have reaped a fair profit from their exertions.

7. The sheep-farms both at Hope Place and Port Louis have placed beyond a doubt the entire adaptability of much of the Island for sheep pasture, and the improvement of the South American sheep by crossing with imported English rams has been rapid and encouraging.

FALKLAND
ISLANDS.
—

I have, &c.

THOS. E. MOORE,
Governor

The Right Hon. Henry Labouchere, M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

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